OVER BLACK:

An unsettling rumble rises. Developing into a *ROARRRRRR*. It's in your ears now. Like a chorus of chanting maniacs.

HARD CUT TO:

1 EXT. EVERGREEN FOREST - DAY 1

This ferocious sound drives an aggressively paced *forward-moving* POINT OF VIEW. Skirting close to the forest floor.

It weaves past thick tree trunks and fallen firs. Patches of shimmering light emerging ahead. The POV breaks out over -

2 EXT. LAKE - CONTINUOUS 2

It careens over the glassy surface, skimming past pockets of REED, and an old ROWBOAT carcass. The POV fixed firmly on -

A WOODEN JETTY. Jutting into the lake. A YOUNG WOMAN sits on its edge. HEADPHONES on. Reading a PAPERBACK. Unaware as -

It races right at her. *ROARRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR.* Faster, louder, closer until she darts a sudden look upwards to see -

This rampant FORCE is heading for her now fear-etched face, until - VOOOOOM! A swerve left and high. On its diversion -

SMASH CUT TO:

A wide angle vista of this lake and it's surrounding forest.

A FLYING DRONE-COPTER buzzes high overhead. *This was the source of the POV and sound*. Nothing sinister at all.

3 EXT. JETTY - CONTINUOUS 3

Close on our woman's stunned face as she yanks off her headphones. Hints of CLASSICAL MUSIC playing within.

This is TERESA (17). Pretty, with thick BRAIDED hair.

The sound of chuckling spins her sharply around to see -

CALEB (18) strolling down the jetty. Shorts. Topless with DRONE GOGGLES on his face and a CONTROL UNIT in hand.

TERESA
What the fuck Caleb?!!

CALEB
Wait ‘til you see the shot I got!

He pulls the goggles off onto his forehead.

CALEB (CONT'D)
You looked like you shat a brick out sideways.

TERESA
You could have taken my head off.

CALEB
It wouldn't be a clean de-
capitation with these blades,
they'd just scramble your face up
real good.

Pissed, Teresa reverts back to her book - WUTHERING HEIGHTS by EMILY BRONTË. Caleb stands on the edge of the dock and -

Pulls his goggles back on. Begins to man his drone over the water. Teresa's concentration invaded by the buzzing.

TERESA
(urges)
Shouldn't you maybe go see if
Jessica is feeling any better?

CALEB
She'll be fine...I gave her a
Klonopin so she can sleep off
whatever the fuck is wrong with
her.
(considers)
I think I gave her mono.

TERESA
You know that means you probably
have mono too?

CALEB
Maybe, but I'm feeling great!

Teresa considering her response when - WHOOSH! The drone skims just past her face again. Hope of sanctuary destroyed.

CUT TO:

4 OMITTED 4

5 EXT. CABIN - CONTINUOUS 5

A-frame. Wooden. Battered by time, swaddled by nature. Teresa emerges from the nearby tree line and makes towards it.

Two vehicles parked outside. A PICK-UP and an old V.W. She doesn't notice a small streak of blood on the latter as she -

Makes up a set of - creaking steps.

CUT TO:

6 INT. MAIN ROOM, WOODEN CABIN - MOMENTS LATER 6

The front door creaks open and Teresa steps inside. Her skewed face eyeballing the gloomy space. She sniffs the air.

It's Musty. Old. Needing renovation. BUZZING flies fill the air while less fortunate kin are stuck to hanging traps.

SLAM -

She shuts the door hard behind her in hope of waking -

TERESA
Jessica?

A WHIMPERING sound draws her bead towards the far corner of the cabin and a set of breathing internal curtains.

She makes towards the source of the sound, reaches out and -

7 INT. BEDROOM, WOODEN CABIN - CONTINUOUS 7

Pulls the curtains open with a snap to reveal - A BRUNETTE GIRL. Curled up on a double bed. Wrapped in a blanket.

<u>The whimpering sound instantly stops</u>. The girl's back is turned. Body gently rising and falling. This is JESSICA (18).

TERESA
(softly)
Hey, how you feeling, cuz?

No answer. Teresa steps inside. The floral wallpaper peeling, but compared to the rest of the cabin, it's homely.

Stops over Jessica, gives a nudge. No response bar peaceful breathing. Playfully pinches her ass. <u>Jessica doesn't budge</u>.

TERESA (CONT'D)
Since none of these other *groovy* friends of yours bothered their ass to show up, can I take your car and escape the hell of being stuck here with your latest boyfriend.

Jessica *still* doesn't stir. Resigned, Teresa fixes the blanket, moves to a rocking chair. Dusts it and plonks in.

TERESA (CONT'D)
You better wake-up in the next half hour or I’m gonna be forced to go drown that brainless meat-puppet’s sorry ass.

Pulls her book out. Reads with one hand as she uses her other to absent-mindedly fiddle with her BRAID. Content, until -

A WHIMPER from the bed draws her gaze back to Jessica. As quickly as the sound rose, it morphs back into sleepy gurgle.

Teresa flicks attention back to the book. Her eyes scan sentences. Lips flicker in sync with silent reading, until -

A GRUMBLING. Sounds like words this time. Darts a look.

TERESA (CONT'D)
Jess?

No answer. Teresa reads again, but almost instantly more chatter rises. She peers over the top of her book to see -

Jessica now sitting upright. Crosslegged. Back *still* turned.

A beat of silence then, rising from whisper to audible -

JESSICA'S VOICE
The intense horror of my nightmare came over me. I tried to draw back my arm...

It slowly dawns on Teresa. She looks back to her book to see - THE VERY SAME FUCKING WORDS BEING SPOKEN ARE ON THIS PAGE!

JESSICA'S VOICE (CONT'D)
...but the hand clung to it, and a most melancholy voice sobbed, 'Let me in—let me in!...

Dread in Teresa's eyes as she tracks the print in time with -

JESSICA'S VOICE (CONT'D)
...As it spoke, I discerned, obscurely, a child's face looking through the window...

Shuts the book. Jessica stops. Minor relief, until -

JESSICA
...Finding it useless to attempt shaking the creature off, I pulled its wrist on to the broken pane...

Her voice is getting increasingly LOUDER and DEEPER. Teresa springs to her feet. The fear is crawling over her now.

TERESA
Jess, please shut up.

JESSICA'S VOICE
...and rubbed it to and fro 'til the blood ran down and soaked the bedclothes.....Yet still it wailed,...'LET ME IN!!!!'

TERESA
JESSICA!!

She stops talking. Excruciating silence burns. Teresa's mind racing as she stares at her now motionless upright cousin.

Her lip twitches, about to speak, takes a step forward when -

Jessica keels over and off the bed. THUD! Lands out of sight. Teresa treads cautiously around the side of the bed to see -

Jessica on her back. Still and silent. With a gasping breath, her shut eyelids ping open and her body begins to convulse.

Frothy WHITE VOMIT erupts upwards from her mouth. Teresa drops to her knees, tilts her cousins head. Panic stations.

TERESA (CONT'D)
Shit, shit, shit, shit, shit.

Jessica stops convulsing. Sudden.

Her body now frozen in a RIGID pose. Face locked in pained GRIMACE. Milky DROOL leaking from her lips.

She slowly raises a quivering hand and points deep into the space of the cabin. Eyes fixed, terrified and GLARING at -

Teresa darts a look to the space - there is nothing there.

In this moment of distraction - Jessica reaches and grabs Teresa by the braid. She instantly struggles to free herself.

Jessica with a rictus grin etched on her otherwise inanimate face. Eyes fixed right on Teresa. Terrifyingly still until -

At lighting speed - Jessica grips Teresa's throat with total commanding strength. Instantly choking her out.

JESSICA
(spits)
Who's the brainless meat puppet now?

With a burst of supernatural fury - she RIPS the BRAID clean off Teresa's screaming head.

Taking bloodied scalp clean off with it. The second this visceral image burns into our retinas we -

SMASH CUT TO:

8 EXT. LAKE / JETTY - A SHORT TIME LATER 8

Music pumps from a boom-box. Caleb still manning his drone. Taking shots across the water. Completely unaware that -

A STUMBLING POV is moving along the jetty towards him.

FEMALE VOICE
CALEEEBBBBB!!!

Caleb spins and pulls off his goggles to see -

The scalped Teresa dropping to her knees in front of him. Breathless, bloodied and in total vibrating shock.

He drops his controller, the drone comes to a juddering halt in the air over the jetty as he goes to Teresa's aid.

She tries to speak, words won't come though, panic in control as her eyes shift and look behind Caleb.

TERESA
(croaks)
Jessica.

Caleb turns to see -

His girlfriend. Back turned. Gripping the drone in an outstretched hand. The spinning rotors blow her hair wildly.

CALEB
What the fuck Jess?!

She doesn't respond. Her body twitching. Tiny sharp motions. Caleb makes towards her.

CALEB (CONT'D)
JESSICA?!

Off his voice, she jerkily turns to reveal - twisted blood splattered features. Caleb grinds to a gasping halt.

CALEB (CONT'D)
Jess-a-baby?

A flicker of humanity in her eyes, the hint of a serene smile growing when -

Drives the drones spinning rotors right INTO HER FACE.

She is instantly propelled into the lake. The drone spirals the opposite way. Blood mists the air like a sniper just hit.

In a pool of blood - Jessica's prone body begins to sink beneath the surface. Caleb a bundle of terrified confusion.

He grits, dives in after his girl, bringing us -

8A EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS 8A

Panicked and flailing until he gets a bead on her. From behind as she sinks deeper into a crimson haze.

Reverse on: Jessica's rotor-damaged face. Blood clouding from her wounds. Caleb swims hard and downwards towards her.

Caleb reaches out, about to grab hold when - PING! Her eyes SPRING OPEN.

9 EXT. LAKE / JETTY - CONTINUOUS 9

Teresa clinging to the edge of the jetty - her blood streaked face and wide panicked eyes fixed on the settling water when -

SPLASH! A sudden glimpse of Caleb breaking the water. No sooner has he emerged, he is yanked right back under.

9A EXT. UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS 9A

Screaming bubbles erupt as Caleb is faced by this snarling vision of Jessica. Eyes wide with bloodlust.

9B EXT. LAKE / JETTY - CONTINUOUS 9B

The settled water of the lake distrusted by - an explosion of water on it's surface.

HARD CUT TO:

THUNK! Caleb's head lands on the jetty. DECAPITATED. Facing Teresa's bloodied face. She can barely take it in when -

Rumbling from the lake turns her back to see -

The water breaking. Jessica slowly emerging. A glimpse of her sickly twitching grimace as we pump wide to reveal -

She is rising directly upwards from the lake. Backlit by the sun - concealing the extent of her hideous possessed form.

Bloodied water drips from clawed digits. Twisted toes skimming the lake. Suspended in mid air. A diabolical deity.

Giant red lettering emerges and dominates the sky above:

EVIL DEAD RISE

SMASH CUT TO:

9C INT. DINGY CORRIDOR - NIGHT 9C

Lined with flight cases and filled with the echoing sound of a BAYING CROWD. A small corner a backstage at a large venue.

The buzz of ROADIES busily on the move, but our focus is on the single door of a CUBICLE. We edge slowly towards until -

HARD CUT TO:

9D INT. TOILET CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS 9D

Closing in on a SINK with dripping tap as KA-RUNCH. A hand slams a crumpled *almost* empty plastic water bottle down.

We rise from it and up to a dirty mirror on the wall to see - an out of focus shape sitting on a toilet.

Focus shifts to reveal it is a WOMAN. Black hair, rough loose clothes, tearing open a small foil packet between her teeth.

Close with her now as she removes a PREGNANCY TEST STICK. Stares at it for a moment. This is BETH BIXLER. (26).

Quickly slides it right between her legs. Her booted feet tapping as she waits and waits and finally - begins to pee.

Her face deep in whirring thought as she does so. Agitatedly chewing on the quick of her thumbnail until - OUCH!

Rips some skin. Bleeds. A single blood droplet lands on he bare knee. She stares at it like you would a ladybug until -

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

Sudden and hard on the door. Beth is jolted by the sudden intrusion which is followed by a booming -

MALE VOICE
Beth! Beth, you in there?

Beth instantly snatching for toilet paper to deal with the pee she has just gotten all over her hands.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

MALE VOICE (CONT'D)
Beth?

BETH
(curt)
Gimme five alright...

Request ignored as the voice hurriedly explains -

MALE VOICE
Brandon is flipping his lid because he can’t find the Strat he won in that arm wrestling contest last night.

BETH
It’s already tuned and racked stage left like I told you it was half an hour ago...

9E EXT. DINGY CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 9E

A MAN - right up at the door. Similar in age to Beth - much friendlier looking than his vocal introduction suggested.

MAN
You feeling alright in there?

BETH'S VOICE
I'm fine.

MAN
I told you to steer clear of that all you can eat Sushi situation...

He smiles, expecting a laugh in response.

9F INT. TOILET CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS 9F

Beth finished cleaning up, gripping the test in her hand.

BETH
I didn't, it's not...just go man your station, I'll be there five before curtains up.

9G INT. DINGY CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 9G

MAN
You got it boss...oh, and one more thing...

BETH'S VOICE
(impatient)
What?

He leans in closer to the door and in as low a voice as will still carry amongst the rising baying crowd noise beyond -

MAN
I love you Beth.

9H INT. TOILET CUBICLE - CONTINUOUS 9H

Beth looks up sharply at the door. A moment of hesitation, yet through her discomfort, her response is real and genuine -

BETH
I love you too.

She looks back towards the pregnancy test - no result showing in it's small window. Yet. She continues to stare at it as -

The sound of the crowd noises rises - closing in around her, smothering her until it is a deafening roar and we -

HARD CUT TO:

10 EXT. DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - DAY 10

HIGH-RISES reach for deep blue sky. Sun burning bright but -

DARK CLOUDS are gathering above the distant SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS. A storm is a brewing, and it’s sure to fall soon.

CUT TO:

11 OMITTED 11

12 OMITTED 12

13 OMITTED 13

14 OMITTED 14

15 OMITTED 15

16 OMITTED 16

17 OMITTED 17

18 EXT. THE OVERPASS - EVENING 18

RAIN TEEMS from an uncharacteristically leaden L.A sky.

A dominant CONCRETE OVERPASS curves into the distance. Carrying unseen traffic away from what lies beneath -

The reality of the here and now. A down and out low-rise street lined with shuttered lock-ups and vacant lots.

The rotting carcass of a yellow OLDSMOBILE DELTA sits alongside the TENT HOMES and cardboard beds of THE HOMELESS.

Flickering lights illuminate A LARGE BILLBOARD ADVERT showing images of aspirational skyscrapers. Sprawling texts reads -

YOUR NEIGBORHOOD ---*YOUR* FUTURE

At the distant end of this street - the tallest structure on the block - A FOURTEEN STORY BUILDING. It looms alone.

Heading towards it - An UBER. Its wheels kicking up spray.

19 EXT. MONDE BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER 19

Rain-water pours from a broken gutter. Spilling across writing etched in a large slab of stone which reads -

MONDE NATIONAL BANK

Wider to reveal the writing is on the building we saw from afar. We are closer now to see it is - a crumbling Art Deco.

Dark brick with green ornate detailing. IVY has gripped part of the building like nature's hand that will never let go.

A scant number of windows have light glowing inside them. There's life indoors for sure, but not a lot of it.

The Uber arrives out front. A FIGURE alights into the downpour. Pulls a recognizable rucksack from the trunk.

Heaves it onto her shoulders. It's Beth. She SLAMS the trunk and the Uber drives away into the night, leaving her alone.

The building reflected in a puddle on the street, Beth steps through it and - stares up at the looming structure. Thinks.

View from afar as she makes towards the dimly lit front door. MUSIC swells and carries us on it's wave as we -

CUT TO:

20 OMITTED 20

21 INT. UNKNOWN ROOM - CONTINUOUS 21

CLOSE ON: Needle against rotating vinyl on a turntable. This is the source of the music. Peeling slowly wider to reveal -

A second turntable. A youthful hand lands fingers on the turning vinyl surface and begins to SCRATCH! Wider to reveal -

A bleach-blonde TURNTABLIST. DANNY (17). Total focus as he mixes songs with supreme talent.

His decks are the centerpiece of his music heavy - BEDROOM, and he is totally engrossed with this mix he is creating.

The energetic music thumps and pumps and carries us into -

22 INT. LIVING AREA, APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 22

CLOSE ON: A wind-up egg timer perched on the corner of -

A lamplit desk. Wider to reveal the surrounding walls are collaged with beautiful artwork and - tattoo designs.

ELLIE (37) sitting at the desk. Skin inked. Hair a slippery red mass. Mid-dye. Wearing glasses, furrowed focus on -

A brass TATTOO GUN. Soldering its WIRING. Wispy smoke rises. She takes a roll of <u>insulation tape</u> and wraps some around.

Presses her sandaled foot on the gun's pedal on the floor and - BZZZZZZZ. Eyeballs the rapid needle tip firing as -

A dark haired GIRL hastens up to her. This is BRIDGET (16).

BRIDGET
Have you seen my favorite black t-shirt? I need it for the Labor Day protest tomorrow.

Ellie keeps working - doesn't look up.

ELLIE
You're not going to any protest on your own.

BRIDGET
Sophie's Mom is taking us, I told you ten times already, *remember?!*

Ellie looks up from over her glasses.

ELLIE
Did you *remember* to check the bathroom hamper?

Bridget rolls her eyes and stomps off.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Tell Danny to turn the music down.

BRIDGET'S VOICE
MOM SAYS TURN THE MUSIC DOWN!

ELLIE
I COULD HAVE DONE THAT MYSELF!

Ellie looks back to her tattoo gun and the roll of insulation tape hanging off it. Opens a drawer - *something* is missing.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Kassie, you better not have my scissors.

Right off Ellie's question, we cut across the room to meet -

KASSIE (10). Her wide-eyed focus on the BABY DOLL in her hand. Missing one eye. Its plastic face is long worn out and -

She is cutting off it's head with a LARGE SCISSORS. She makes the final slice and the head hits the floor. Decapitated.

ELLIE'S VOICE
KASSIE SWEETHEART! SCISSORS!

She quickly slides the scissors out of sight under the sofa.

KASSIE
DON'T GOT 'EM MOM!

HARD CUT TO:

BRINGGGG! The windup egg timer hops on Ellie's desk. She silences it and pushes from her chair - to her feet.

Makes to a nearby 'Home Sweet Home' MIRROR on the wall. Checks her roots. Bridget appears behind her. Reflected.

BRIDGET
It's dirty!!!

Holding up a creased black t-shirt which reads: **EAT-THE-RICH.**

ELLIE
Well, Stick it on the wash pile and I'll do it later.

BRIDGET
You'll forget. You always forget.

Ellie doesn't respond. Continues towards - the bathroom.

ELLIE
DANNY! MUSIC! PLEASE!!!!!

BUZZZZZZZZ! A doorbell. Bridget throws her t-shirt atop a stacked laundry basket and then moves quickly for -

23 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SECONDS LATER 23

She paces past a stack of open PACKING BOXES and - a BEAT-UP BICYCLE. Reaches the door. Unlocks a deadbolt. Opens to see -

Brothers. JAKE (15) and SCOTT (12). Munching chips and candy.

JAKE
Hey Bridget! Mom's on nights and we're watching *all* the Freddy movies in a row...

SCOTT
(interrupts)
Even the shitty ones.

JAKE
(annoyed)
There are no shitty ones!
(composes)
Wanna join us and eh...

Nonchalantly throws a chip into his mouth.

JAKE (CONT'D)
...never sleep again?

Bridget considers. Jake's innocent hopes rising until -

BRIDGET
In your dreams.

She slams the door in his expectant face.

23A INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 23A

Scott looks to his disappointed big brother and -

SCOTT
"Never sleep again?" You suck.

23B INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 23B

Bridget brings her eye towards - A PEEPHOLE in the door.

23C INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR (PEEPHOLE POV) - CONTINUOUS 23C

A distorted view of Jake. Fist raised, considering knocking again. He bottles it and walks away.

23D INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 23D

Bridget smiles. Sweet. Private.

KASSIE
Your boyfriends are weirdos.

Bridget turns to see - Kassie.

Brandishing the decapitated Baby Doll head atop a mop-handle, and - the original mop head atop her own dome.

BRIDGET
You're the weirdo.

Kassie jabs her creation at Bridget who arrests the mop handle. They wrestle for supremacy. Kassie wins but -

She runs the shaft right into the walls of the archway into the living area and - CRACK. It snaps leaving one sharp end.

24 INT. LIVING AREA - SECONDS LATER 24

Kassie grabs this freshly created <u>pointy weapon</u> and chases an anxiously giggling Bridget across the room. Bellowing anger.

25 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 25

Danny's mix hits a crescendo. His eyes close and his hands rise in the air. Taking adulation from an imaginary audience.

He's totally unaware as his door *whooshes* open. Bridget darts in and presses her back against it. Eyes lock onto Danny and -

BRIDGET
BIG CROWD IN TONIGHT DAN?!

Danny's eyes spring open to see her smirking face. Instant embarrassment. Drops his pose, hits pause, kills the music.

DANNY
Get out Bridge!!!

BRIDGET
I would, but...

A repetitive loud BANGING starts against his bedroom door. The moving shadow of Kassie on the other side.

26 INT. LIVING AREA - A SPLIT SECOND LATER. 26

Kassie barges into the door with her shoulder until - its suddenly pushed open. She looks up at her grinning siblings

Fear in her wide eyes as they pincer grab her and -

27 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SECONDS LATER 27

Kassie is dumped onto the bed. The TICKLING starts instantly. She is thrust into GIGGLING spasms by her octopus armed kin.

28 INT. BATHROOM - THE SAME INSTANT 28

Rusty red water spirals down the plughole. Ellie's rinsing out her hair-dye over the tub with a shower head in hand.

BUZZZZZZZZZZZZ! The Doorbell. Again. Ellie pops her head up.

ELLIE
SOMEBODY GET THAT PLEASE!

No response. Ellie pushes to her feet and wraps a <u>white</u> towel around her dripping head. Moves into -

29 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 29

Red water drops PLINK across the floor as Ellie beelines for -

30 INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 30

As she reaches for the deadbolt - another BUZZZZZZZZZZZZZ!

ELLIE
Alright, alright!

Unlocks, pulls open and is stunned by the presence of - NOBODY. The space in front of her is empty. Weird.

30A INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 30A

Ellie steps out and looks down the length of the corridor, as a figure slowly moves out from behind her. It is -

BETH
BOO!

Jolted to her core, Ellie spins around and instinctively lashes with flailing hands. Catching Beth in the mush.

Beth knocked back as Ellie realizes who it is, but still pumping on post-shock adrenaline, slaps her arm and -

ELLIE
Beth, you bitch!

BETH
Surprise sis.

They embrace. Awkwardly between Beth's rucksack and Ellie's dripping towel head.

ELLIE
When did you get into town?

BETH
I eh, just Uber'd straight here from LAX.

They separate and size each other up.

ELLIE
You been sleeping? You look like Mom.

Beth throws eyes at her red-dripping toweled head.

BETH
Beats looking like a tampon.

Wry smiles shared as Ellie steps inside -

30B INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 30B

Beth follows, heaving her weighty backpack off.

BETH
You know the buzzer downstairs is totally busted? I was able to walk right in off the street.

Ellie - taking a couple of FRAMES from the wall and placing them into a box.

ELLIE
The whole building is busted. It's getting knocked in a month.

BETH
You're kidding me.

ELLIE
Nope. We're out.

BETH
Have you guys found a new place?

ELLIE
Not yet.

BETH
Shit, you and Jay have been here forever.

The statement causes Ellie to slow. Something ticking. Turns to Beth, about to speak when - A *SCREAM pierces the silence.*

KASSIE
AUNTIE BETH!!!!!!

Beth looks up to see Kassie clutching Staffanie at the far end of the hallway.

31 OMITTED 31

32 OMITTED 32

32B INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 32B

The whirr of a HAIRDRYER as Ellie works her hair. Keeping a half eye out towards -

33 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 33

Beth on the sofa. Rucksack wide open, handing out GIFTS. Kassie clutching Staffanie, watching her Auntie intently as -

Bridget peruses the pages of a first edition BOOK. Danny with new HEADPHONES on his neck. Perusing A CONCERT PROGRAM.

DANNY
Was Bangkok awesome?

BETH
Insane. Crazy obsessive fans there.

DANNY
Did you drink snake blood?

BRIDGET
That's culturally insensitive.

Looks to Bridget -

DANNY
What about monkey brain barbecue?

BRIDGET
Oh, that’s so much better, Dan.

Beth looks to Kassie and her strange totem-like creation.

BETH
Who’s your friend, Kass?

KASSIE
Danny told me that when this building used to be a bank, a Teller got caught stealing and hunged himself, and if you walk around with coins in your pockets, his ghost hears the jingle...and he scares you to death so he can take all your money.

DANNY
It’s true.

KASSIE
If he comes after me, Staffanie will scare him to death first.

BRIDGET
Or, you could just, you know, not carry coins in your pockets.

Beth leans in close to Kassie and whispers -

BETH
Ghosts aren’t real.

KASSIE
Have you ever seen one?

Beth shakes her head.

KASSIE (CONT'D)
Then how’d you know they don’t exist?

BETH
I only believe in what I can see.

Beth pulls a closed fist from her rucksack and holds it up to Kassie. Teasing. Then finally opens to reveal - a BRACELET.

Kassie drops Staffanie hard and holds out her delicate wrist. Beth fixes its interlocked metal loops around it.

BETH (CONT'D)
It’s for badass rock-chicks only.

KASSIE
Look Mom, I’m a badass!

From across the room, over the din of the hairdryer -

ELLIE
Please don't indoctrinate her into your groupie world.

Beth looks up to her sister.

KASSIE
What's a groupie?

BETH
Your Mom's favorite nickname for me even though she knows I'm a guitar technician. Ain't that right El?

Holds Ellie's bead.

ELLIE
If you say so.

BETH
Be nice or you don't get a gift.
(to Kassie)
Check out what I got for your Dad.

She digs back in her rucksack - searching for something.

Totally unaware her words have sucked the air from the room. All excitement faded as she pulls out a silly looking MUG.

Nobody reacts as expected.

BETH (CONT'D)
Who farted?

The lack of response from anyone closes in around Beth. Looks up to Ellie who kills the hairdryer and holds her bead.

BETH (CONT'D)
What's going on El?

ELLIE
Danny, take my car and go get pizza with your sisters.

Danny looks to Ellie and with an understanding nod -

DANNY
Sure thing Mom.

TIME CUT TO:

34 INT. LIVING AREA - A SHORT TIME LATER 34

A haphazard collection of FRAMED FAMILY PHOTOS on the wall showcase Ellie, the three kids and their Dad - JAY.

Beth sitting on the sofa's edge. Brow furrowed, watching an agitated as hell Ellie pack items into a box.

BETH
Did he meet someone else?

ELLIE
That would have been almost easier to digest. No, he claims he needs a break from being a husband.

BETH
So, he's just gonna quit on the kids too?

ELLIE
He believes paying child support equals co-parenting from afar.

Beth flops onto the sofa. Trying to get a grip on this news.

BETH
Why didn’t you tell me, El? I would have jumped on a plane here to help you through this.

Her theoretical kindness hits a nerve deep inside Ellie. She tries to swallow some rising frustration but can’t hold back -

ELLIE
I called you. Twice. First time when he told me he was leaving. Second the night he moved out.

Beth stung. She pops up from the sofa to see Ellie looming.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
That was two and half months ago, Beth.

Ellie turns and makes into -

34A INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 34A

Hastens down it and vanishes round a corner.

34B INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 34B

Beth hanging in her own guilt.

35 INT. BRIDGET & KASSIE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 35

A shared space with two distinct personalities. Kassie’s side colorful and cartoonish while Bridget’s is dark and moody.

Ellie loads items into a packing box. Beth enters. Gingerly.

BETH
I’m sorry okay. You know when I’m on the road I get sucked in deep. This is one of those tours where I gotta eat, sleep and shit it, twenty four seven, and I’m hustling to make chief-tech right now. If I do, I’ll be the first woman on our crew to do it.

Silence. Ellie disinterested in Beth’s excuses.

BETH (CONT'D)
Come on El, we gotta talk about this properly.

Ellie turns with big sibling confidence and poise.

ELLIE
Okay, let’s talk about how you breeze back into my world with your gifts and your cool Auntie shtick. But, I know the real you, the you who has a history of Forrest-Gumping whenever shit lands on your lap. So, what I really want to know is, why are you here right now, Beth? Because, you never are when I actually need you.

She pushes past Beth and back into -

36 INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 36

Ellie back to packing boxes. Beth follows her. Meekly.

ELLIE
You can sleep on the sofa tonight, but I gotta pack and move and...

Beth breathes deep and interrupts -

BETH
You’re right.

Stops Ellie in her tracks. Keeps her back turned.

BETH (CONT'D)
I need some big sister advice real bad right now.

Pained in being correct in her assumption - Ellie grimaces.

ELLIE
You want my advice? Check your fucking voicemails once in a while.

She disappears through a side door to the kitchen. Beth alone and embarrassed. Bangs the back of her head against the wall.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. MONDE BUILDING - NIGHT 37

Low angle on the building as torrential rain lashes down.

Hidden in gloom and shadow - the shape of a long, low profile CAR approaches and vanishes down a RAMP beneath the building.

37A INT. UNDERGROUND RAMP - CONTINUOUS 37A

The CAR moves down the concrete ramp as a rolling SHUTTER judders it's way to an incomplete halt. Leaving a gap.

38 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 38

Dotted with VEHICLES and bathed in sickly fluorescent light. The car enters. A BUICK ROADMASTER '95. Pulls into a bay.

39 INT. BATHROOM - SAME 39

Beth perched on the edge of the tub. Dials on her cellphone. Speaker engaged as she listens to -

AN AUTOMATED VOICE
You have sixteen new voice messages.

She begins to listen to them. *Busy Bar calls. Booty calls. Pocket calls.* Cancelling each one after mere seconds.

40 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - SAME 40

The three kids pile out of the car.

Danny pulls a BACKPACK on. Keys in hand. SOUVENIR KEYRING reads - TOFF'S GHOST TRAIN. Points. PIP-PIP. Car locked.

Bridget balances PIZZA BOXES while Kassie carries a tray of SODAS. Sticks out her tongue - attempts to drink from one.

Stops as her gaze lands on a battered OLD VAN with tall lettering on its rusted side - FONDA'S TREE SURGERY.

Hitched to its rear - A WOODCHIPPER. Kassie stares at with fear in her eyes as the beastly machine begins to RATTLE.

41 OMITTED 41

42 INT. SMALL BATHROOM - SAME 42

Ellie steps quietly into the doorway. Beth unaware of her sister's presence as a loud BEEEEEEEP, and then a voice -

ELLIE'S VOICE
Hey Bethy-boo. It's El. Just calling to say hi and em...me and Jay...

Beth hangs up - cutting the message off mid flow.

ELLIE
I don't blame you, I hate the sound of my own voice too.

Looks up to see - Ellie in the doorway. A look of conciliation in her eyes. Tears burgeoning in Beth's.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
What's going on with you Beth?

She breathes deep and then -

BETH
I screwed up, like I always do. And I need you to help me figure it out. Again.

Ellie kneels by Beth and takes her hand.

ELLIE
What happened?

Beth about to share when - A RATTLING arrests them. Looks to a chipped mug on the sink edge which reads -

HEY MOM, YOU DA BOMB!

It's full of toothbrushes. VIBRATING in unison. Before they can quite process, the room begins to SHAKE. Earthquake.

HARD CUT TO:

43 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - SAME 43

SPLASH! Soda cups hit the ground. The trio of kids frozen for moment as - the world around them rocks and rolls violently.

Hanging fluorescent lights overhead SWING on chains. Bulbs POP and STROBE. One fixture drops and CRASHES mere feet away.

Danny grabs Kassie's right hand. Bridget ditches the pizzas and grabs her left one as they make unsteady haste towards -

The EXIT door across the lot. Halfway there when - A CRACK erupts in the CONCRETE FLOOR. Heading right towards them.

They scuttle aside. Cower against a dinted old V.W.

BRIDGET
TUCK AND COVER! TUCK AND COVER!!

Kassie does what she's told, copying Bridget's action as -

The crack travels in front of their feet. Danny wide-eyed as he tracks it back down the length of the parking lot.

44 INT. SMALL BATHROOM - SAME 44

Beth and Ellie cling to each other as the world around them rocks. Cabinets pop and items fall all around them until -

The shaking slows. Intensity drops. Danger winding back down.

45 OMITTED 45

46 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - SAME 46

The swaying overhead lamps begin to settle. Beneath which - the breathless siblings help each other back to their feet.

DANNY
Shit, that was intense.

KASSIE
I think I pee'd my pants.

BRIDGET
Is it warm?

Kassie reaches and feels her shorts, then shakes her head.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
It's just soda.

Danny's focus shifts to the crack in the ground as -

Bridget flips the dropped pizza boxes to find - marinara mess. Kassie picks up a soda cup. Takes a sip from the straw.

Danny following the zig-zagging crack ever wider into -

A dark corner. The base of the wall collapsed into - A HOLE IN THE CONCRETE FLOOR. Dust rising from deep within.

47 INT. THE DARK HOLE - CONTINUOUS 47

Upward view from inside the jagged void as Danny's intrigued face appears. He fires up his cellphone flashlight.

Angles it into the darkness to see - a slope of toppled concrete rubble descending to a tiled floor eight feet below.

DANNY
Holy shit. Check this out!

48 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 48

His words draw Bridget and Kassie from behind the Roadmaster to see - Danny on his stomach over this mysterious hole.

BRIDGET
Careful Dan, there could be aftershocks.

49 INT. THE DARK HOLE - CONTINUOUS 49

Danny ignores, leans deeper into the void. Pans his light to illuminate - the internal mechanics of a circular VAULT DOOR.

50 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 50

He pops back up and darts an excited look to his sisters.

DANNY
It's an old bank vault!

Without hesitation, he begins to clamber down into the dark.

BRIDGET
Danny, don't...

51 INT. BANK VAULT - CONTINUOUS 51

Danny keeps his ass low to the debris slope as he scuttles onto the flat floor. Pans his cell-light to reveal the space -

A long rectangular room. The vault door at one end, and adjacent - a wall lined in shiny brass SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES.

They are LOCKED. But he's quick to still try and pry them open. No joy - his eyes landing on - one open one.

He turns, lights up a central row of shelving to reveal - they are stacked full of FILES and ARCHIVE BOXES.

Begins to search for - Keys? Treasure? Anything! Only dull paperwork, until he yanks the lid from *another* box to see -

An old PHOTO. His cell illuminating a sepia-toned image of -

THREE smiling PRIESTS in front of a CABIN in the MOUNTAINS.

Dressed in black with white dog collars. Central - the eldest of the three. He is holding -

A dark rectangular object in his hands. <u>A Bible it seems.</u>

Danny removes the photo. Peers back into the box. His eyes widen in response to something. He quickly digs in to remove -

VINYL RECORDS in off-white paper sleeves. He excitedly unsheathes one. Thick heavy 78s with no branding.

He swiftly loads the stack into his backpack when a metallic creaking sound from behind him slowly turns him to see -

Nothing but a dark corner of the room. He treads slightly forward as the sound rises in volume until -

BRIDGET'S VOICE
LET'S GO DANNY!

Spins around and shouts back towards her -

DANNY
RELAX A MINUTE BRIDGE!!!!

Looks back where he was heading towards when -

BA-BOOM! A GRAVE MALE FACE drops out of the darkness with thunderous force - slamming Danny back onto his ass.

He drops his phone, thrust into darkness. Scrambles around for it. Lays hands and points it back at the face to see -

JESUS CHRIST. A large statue of THE CRUCIFIXION hanging on broken chains on the wall. Relieved but still disturbed.

About to leave when he notices a scattered of shiny objects on the other side of the shelf - COINS!

He scrambles towards them, quickly disappointed to find they are tiny HOLY MEDALS that have poured out of -

A large earthquake-created crack in a STONE SARCOPHAGUS.

Above it - thousands of these tiny medals hang on strings, something truly manic in their array.

Danny drawn towards the crack - reaches inside and clears away the pile of medals to see -

A RECTANGULAR OBJECT wrapped in cloth. He gets fingertips to it and pulls out to see - Subtle movement beneath the cloth.

A strange low - CHITTERING. Opens the cloth tentatively to reveal - COCKROACHES. Before he can even react to them -

They burst into a CLATTERING CLOUD around his head. He swats the air desperately until they dissipate into the dark.

Breathless, looks back to the object. Its true form revealed -

A dark brown - **BOOK.**

Its cover is a thick leathery material which is marbled with a branching capillary and vein like pattern.

Danny unsettled yet mesmerized by its presence. Observes, wraps it up and - slides into his backpack.

52 OMITTED 52

(CONTENT OF OMITTED SCENE 52 ABOVE ABSORED INTO SCENE 51)

53 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER 53

Close on: Ellie’s face. Etched in concern. BANG! BANG! BANG!

Wider to reveal she’s banging on a maroon colored door. One of many lining this jaded common area. No answer, looks to -

Beth. In the doorway of their apartment - #81. On her phone.

ELLIE
(desperate)
Anything?

Hit with a sharp *BEEP-BEEP-BEEP* in her ear. Shakes her head.

BETH
Network’s totally screwed.

Ellie hammers on the door again.

BETH (CONT'D)
I’m sure they are fine El.

A different door opens and - a built handsome man emerges. GABRIEL (28). Instantly alert.

GABRIEL
Everyone okay? Anybody hurt?

Ellie hustles up to him.

ELLIE
Hey Gabe, kids went to get pizza and I can’t get through on their cells. Can I borrow your car to go find them?

GABRIEL
Lemme get my keys. I'll drive you.

He hastens back inside. The first door Ellie hounded opens. A STOCKY MAN (60) emerges. Smoking. MR. FONDA. Eyes on Beth.

MR. FONDA
Who are you?

BETH
Beth. Ellie's sister.

MR. FONDA
Oh yeah, the Groupie.

Beth looks to Ellie. Stung. Ellie mouths a *'sorr-ey'*.

MR. FONDA (CONT'D)
Can you hear her up there? Quake sent her hiding in the crawlspace.

Beth's confused until - he steps under a LARGE AIRCON GRILL in the ceiling. Raises a handful of TREATS from his pocket.

MR. FONDA (CONT'D)
Here kitty kitty kitty kitty.

Ellie looks towards the smoking cigarette in Mr. Fonda's other hand. Steps up and plucks it from between his fingers.

ELLIE
These things will kill ya.

Drags deep, exhales with reverence and hands it back to him.

MR. FONDA
Why do the things we adore most always want to kill us, huh?

ELLIE
Try giving birth.

Her witty words hit Beth in the stomach just as - Gabriel emerges from his apartment, keys in hand.

GABRIEL
Let's roll.

Off his words - BING! ELEVATOR DOORS open to reveal the three kids. Ellie makes haste to them and with rising anger -

ELLIE
You don't ever take the elevator right after a quake.

Her chin wobbles and - she lands an all encompassing hug. Kisses each one of her children individually on the head.

KASSIE
Bridget dropped the pizza.

ELLIE
I love you guys so much more than pizza.

The kids return their love to their Mom. Beth watching the familial embrace through tender eyes.

HARD CUT TO:

53A INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 53A

The T.V is on: A NEWSCASTER is delivering BREAKING NEWS.

NEWSCASTER
The earthquake was measured as a five-point-fiver with an epicenter just north of Puente Hills...

The voice fades away as we travel through the door into -

53B INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 53B

Ellie sweeping up broken glass with a dustpan and brush.

Her gaze landing on - a pair of old SNEAKERS poking out from under the bed. Ellie levers them out. Mens. <u>They are Jays.</u>

Her chin wobbles a touch and then - she springs to action.

Grabs a packing box and rapidly pulls pieces of male clothing from a drawer. Loading up the box.

54 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 54

Through the old cloth he found it in, Danny unwraps -

The Book. A disturbing artifact under lamplight on his desk. He's stands over it - presenting it to an uncertain Bridget.

DANNY
You think it might be worth something?

He smiles at her, but she is clearly unsettled.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Mom could do with some extra money right now, don't you think?

BRIDGET
I don't think Mom wants cash from something you stole.

DANNY
It's not stolen Bridge. It's probably been locked down there forever.

BRIDGET
Yeah, and weird shit like this gets locked away for a reason.

Danny reaches to open it up, but can't. Turns it on its side to reveal - it's pages are bound shut by a DARK IVORY CLASP.

An intricate mechanism of interlocked COMB LIKE TEETH. He grabs hold and tries to lever it open with his fingers.

DANNY
OWWW-A! Fuck.

He drops The Book on its back as blood runs fast from his fingertip. Splattering and dotting across the leathery cover.

BRIDGET
Lemme see.

Sticks his finger in his mouth and sucks on the tip.

DANNY
It's just a nick.

Bridget's gaze drifts back towards The Book and -

BRIDGET
Dan...

Danny looks to see - his spilt blood on the move. Like rivulets of red mercury, traveling over the book cover to -

The clasp. The blood gathers between its fine teeth. And for a moment, it looks like a bloodied toothy grin until -

The red liquid is suddenly absorbed into the mechanism and -

TINK. TINK. TINK. TINK. TINK - The interlocking teeth CLICK outwards one by one until the clasp releases and opens.

The siblings share an awestruck look. Danny goes for it. Quickly opens the thick cover to reveal THE FIRST PAGE:

On dark parchment, in CRIMSON INK - A VERTICAL LINE. Smaller LINES & SHAPES bisect it at multiple angles. A SYMBOL.

Its meaning unknown to them. Danny turns to THE SECOND PAGE:

Every inch of space is covered in - Lines. Symbols. Circles and Glyphs. AN ANCIENT LANGUAGE. All in this dark red ink.

It's strange and intriguing, but as he turns to the next page, things take a turn into truly unsettling territory.

A CRIMSON PAINTING spread across TWO PAGES. A depiction of -

A bearded MAN. His soulless eyes boring into us. Blade in hand. The hint of a smile as he slices the throat of a WOMAN.

Blood flowing from her neck into a pail on the ground where - Piles of dead-eyed CORPSES lie. All with open neck wounds.

Bridget unnerved by this stark image. Danny too, but he cannot resist turning to THE FOLLOWING PAGE to reveal:

Another frightening image in the same style - PAINED SCREAMING FACES. Behind - DEMONIC EYES leer from the shadows.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Close it.

Danny fans through MORE PAGES to reveal:

Depictions of - VISCERAL, UNHOLY and EVIL acts. Dread filled images of animals and humans. And - hybrid demonic beings.

One consistent thing - the images all surrounded by ANCIENT TEXT. Every inch of every page has been put to sinister use.

SLAM! The cover closes. Bridget's two hands pressed firmly against its outside skin. Looks to Danny. Deadly serious.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
I don't like this Dan. You need to put it back down there right now.

DANNY
Mom's not letting any of us out the front door again tonight.

BRIDGET
First thing in the morning then.

She opens his door. Takes a final shivering look at The Book.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
I'm serious Danny. I'm not keeping this secret for you. Promise me.

Danny nods in firm agreement as Bridget slips out of the room. A beat and - he re-opens The Book.

Sucks the tip of his finger again as he peruses. Wide eyed.

55 INT. BATHROOM - SAME 55

Beth kills the faucet over a tub full of bubbly water - turns to see Kassie in bathing costume, pulling on swim goggles.

BETH
You going deep diving?

KASSIE
I gotta see under before I get in.

BETH
Oh yeah?

KASSIE
I got stung by a jellyfish at the beach before. I don't like being underwater.

BETH
I don't think there's any weird sea creatures in the tub.

Beth rolls a sleeve and reaches with her hand to test the water. Swirls around then - Gasps. Suddenly.

Kassie's eyes widen as Beth is jerked suddenly forward.

BETH (CONT'D)
Oh my God, oh my God, oh my...

Something has her GRIPPED. Hard. Beth grimaced and fighting.

She grits and yanks her hand out of the water. Turns to a breathless Kassie to reveal - A YELLOW RUBBER DUCK.

Gives it a squeeze and - it QUACKS! Kassie grunts. Unimpressed. Beth smiles. This moment of levity ended by -

A wave of PAIN. Sudden and debilitating. Beth grips the tub, drops the duck back in the water as -

Her other hand plants low down on her stomach. <u>Not goofing</u>.

KASSIE
You okay?

Forces a grimaced smile as she tries to ride the discomfort.

BETH
I'm fine sweetie, I'm fine.

56 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 56

The Book sits open and ominous on Danny's desk. His focus has switched to - unloading the VINYL from inside his rucksack.

He lays them across the comforter on his bed. The collection identical - off white sleeves with the same crucifix stamp.

Pulls a wall mounted angle poise lamp over them. Its direct light reveals faded cursive handwriting on the center label.

All identical bar a single unique detail - each is NUMBERED and DATED. Danny quickly scans until he finds the earliest -

O N E - November 13th 1922

Removes from its sleeve, blows dust and turns it to see - it's single sided. One side grooved, the other blank. Rare.

He places it onto a turntable. Hits the START button.

Peers across the undulating surface as the record starts to turn. Raises the TONE ARM and gently places the NEEDLE.

Audio POPS and CLICKS, until - A VOCAL emanates from his speakers. Indecipherable as it is - slooooooowww and strange.

Danny twigs. Flicks the speed switch on his deck from 33rpm to 45rpm. Not fast enough to make this sound comprehensible.

Places digits against the turning vinyl. Manually spins it FASTER until he clarifies the tinny crackling recording of -

A CHORUS OF VOICES
Pater Noster, qui es in caelis, sanctificetur nomen tuum. Adveniat regnum tuum. Fiat voluntas tua, sicut in caelo et in terra.

Unsettling words to Danny's ears. He speeds up the record - voices turning to cartoonish BABBLE. Finally - SILENCE falls.

Danny slows the vinyl again. Crackling and popping. Mutters and coughs, the presence of people, then the emergence of -

A MALE VOICE
Good afternoon my fellow clergymen. I am Father Marcus Littleton, the library-keeper here, at St. Patricks and I welcome you all today to our hallowed halls.

A gentle ripple of appreciative applause.

LITTLETON'S VOICE
You have been invited here to bear witness a unique discovery that was made by our overseas missionaries. It would like to present what we firmly believe to be one of the three mythical...BOOKS OF THE DEAD.

Silence, then - RAISED CHATTERING VOICES in response.

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Our tests have revealed that its bindings are made of cured flesh, it's passages inked in blood. We are confident this is an original NATURUM DEMENTO and we seek church approval to translate the spiritual secrets its pages may hold.

The chatter turns rowdy and loud. VOICES of FEAR and DISSENT.

A LONE VOICE
DESTROY IT! It is called THE BOOK OF THE DEAD for a reason!

Danny looks sharply to The Book. Ominous. Jolted by a - CLICK. The record has ended. Static pours from the speakers.

57 OMITTED (CHANGED TO 53A ABOVE.) 57

57A OMITTED (CHANGED TO 53B ABOVE.) 57A

57B INT. INNER HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER 57B

A pair of BOOTS sit atop a box full of clothes as - Ellie grabs her keys from the sideboard and makes for the door.

In the background - at the kitchen table - Bridget, immersed in some crafting work and not noticing her mother depart.

58 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 58

Danny eyeballing the vinyl collection, spies the label -

TWO - January 24th 1923

He places it on the turntable. Hesitates, then sets it turning. Speeds it up. Through crackling, the return of -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
Rejected by our peers - Myself, Father Damien Shanahan, and Canon Hugo Cortez have removed ourselves and our equipment to a private abode in the Diablo mountains. We have been working tirelessly to translate The Book of the Dead's myriad glyphs and passages and have finally reached a point of enlightenment.

Behind Danny - a book page flutters as if caught in a breeze.

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
It is our shared belief, that the reading of the words we have deciphered will contact spiritual forces that exist just beyond the thin veneer of our known world.
(MORE)

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
We will do this with an abundance of caution and the most positive of intents.

59 INT. FOURTEETH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 59

Ellie hesitates at the door which reads - 14TH FLOOR STAIRWELL.

Flips attention to the elevator. Hits the call button. The doors roll open. Eyeballs. Considers. Enters.

60 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 60

Danny watching his speaker. Tense crackling silence until -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
It is January twenty fourth in the year of our Lord, nineteen twenty three and I, Father Marcus Littleton shall now commence reading the first of the spiritual communication passages.

His words CHILL Danny's blood. Enough. He pulls his digits off the vinyl, voice slows again. Hits the STOP BUTTON but -

The record keeps turning. Repeatedly hits stop. Too late as -

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
(drawn out slowly)
Kannn-Darrrr.
Estttt-radaaaa.
Kannnn-Dossss...

SNAP CUT TO:

61 EXT. THE OVERPASS - SAME 61

With an ear shattering CRACK as if the very atmosphere of our world has split open - we are thrust into a *fast moving* POV.

Accompanied by a deafening *ROOOARRR*. This POV FORCE races directly towards the distant Monde Building.

SNAP BACK TO:

62 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 62

Danny grabs the tone arm. SPARKS. Electrical shock. Yelps. The vinyl keeps on turning and -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
Th...russs.
Indacccccctu.
Skerrr-ri-ddddus.

A rustling sound draws Danny towards The Book to see - the pages are leafing of their own accord. Getting ever FASTER.

63 EXT. MONDE BUILDING - SAME 63

The FORCE blazes through the rain with increasing ferocity. Bearings firmly set on the apartment building.

64 INT. ELEVATOR CAR (MOVING) - SAME 64

Ellie staring at the box of clothes in her arms. Emotions brewing, she breathes deep and shakes them off best she can.

65 EXT/INT. THE RAMP - SAME 65

The FORCE blasts under the rolling door gap and into -

65A OMITTED 65A

66 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 66

The digital equalizer on Danny's amplifier REDLINES as -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
KANNN-DAR!
DEMMM-ATOS!
KANDARRRRRR!!!

Book pages shuttle at supernatural speed. Then stop dead on -

A stark image. A NAKED FEMALE. Floating on high. Mouth wide and screaming. MASSES of white eyed DEMONIC FACES surround.

HARD CUT TO:

66A INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 66A

The force ever faster, it's motion unhinged and furious, heading directly for a door at the far end of the space.

67 INT. PARKING LOT ELEVATOR LOBBY - SAME 67

A small room that links the elevator to the lot.

DING! The elevator lands. It's doors peel open. Ellie about to step out when - *SMASSSSSSSH!* The door ahead SHATTERS and -

The POV FORCE sprints right towards her stunned face. Ellie is driven clean off her feet. Her SANDALS left behind as -

68 INT. ELEVATOR CAR - SAME 68

SMACK! She is pinned against the inner wall. Gravity defying.

Attempts screaming, but the force is like a HURRICANE, pulling air from her lungs as Jay's clothes swirl around her.

The doors HAMMER SHUT and the car darts upwards. Fast until -

BANG! It HITS the top of the lift-shaft with violent car crash force. Lights fizz. Cables pop out of panels and -

Ellie hits the floor. Face first. Hard.

69 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 69

Danny staring at the hideous image in the book when his attention is drawn back to his vinyl and speakers -

A LOUD SCREAM, followed by RAISED VOICES. Something is wrong. A DEMONIC VOICE begins to pour out of the speakers.

70 INT. ELEVATOR - SAME 70

In flickering light - blood runs from a cut on Ellie's EYEBROW. Her eyelids flutter. A rush of adrenaline and -

She scrambles upright. Takes a moment to gather her bearings. Blood running into her eyes. She wipes it clear. Turns to -

The DOOR OPEN button. Smacks it. Unresponsive. Grits teeth, and tries to push her fingers between the door join. Fail.

71 INT. FOURTEETH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 71

Ellie's desperate face in the small elevator window as she bangs on its glass.

ELLIE
HEYYYYYY! HELLLLP!

Her plea muted in the metal box. The corridor remains empty.

72 INT. ELEVATOR - SAME 72

She pulls the keys from her pocket and jams one between the door gap. Trying to open enough to lever fingers in until -

GIGGLING LAUGHTER rises and - Ellie drops the keys and snaps around to see - nothing but an empty elevator behind her.

The CHILDLIKE LAUGHTER restarts and moves all around her - like she is at the centre of a circle of taunting kids.

It stops. Again.

A breath of silence until - TINK! Ellie's earring swings on her ear as if it has been flicked. A GIGGLE right off it.

She spans her head around when - TINK! Her other earring moves as if flicked. More giggling, snaps back around when -

WHACK! She is slapped hard across the face. Reeling from the hit - the giggling is joined by - lots of LAUGHING VOICES.

Getting LOUDER and LOUDER until it is a head splitting CHORUS. A crazed cacophony of mocking laughter.

Ellie slams her hands over her ears and slumps in the centre of the elevator, a basket of terrified confusion.

Panic coursing. Pulse galloping. Mind about to blow. Bellows -

ELLIE
SHUT THE FUCK UP!!!

As if by command - silence. Ellie tentatively lowers her hands. The sudden quiet *almost* more unsettling.

A THICK CABLE is dropping downwards behind her. It slides onto her shoulder, and just as she registers it's presence -

It wraps TIGHTLY around her neck - cutting her off mid SCREAM as she is quickly choked and raised off the ground. Hanging.

Her toes scramble on the floor - tantalizingly close. She claws the bind around her neck - desperate to free herself.

Bulging eyes land on a busted open panel on the wall. Stretches for it with her foot. Too far. Swings her body.

Closer and closer to the panel until - she grips it with her toes. LEVERAGE! She pushes upwards, relieving neck pressure.

Grabs another open panel with her hand, but as soon as this is done - her wrist is suddenly arrested by another cable.

Kicking off a relay as - cables lash around her ANKLES and WRISTS. Painfully pulling her body out of shape.

The cables squeeze her so tightly that BLOOD begins to drip from their gripping points of contact.

Her muscle and sinew is stretched to its limit as she is pulled upright and - SNAP. One of her arms breaks.

The lights burn blindingly bright casting Ellie like a crucified fly in a black web until - the lights EXPLODE.

SNAP BETWEEN:

73 EXT. MONDE BUILDING - SAME 73

In a fast relay, the few lit windows in the building begin to flicker and go out one by one.

73A INT. KITCHEN - SAME 73A

Bridget at the kitchen table. Crafting a PROTEST SIGN when the lights flicker and then go out above her.

74 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 74

Danny jolted as his LAPTOP SREEN EXPLODES and his speaker cones BLOW out in a rain of sparks.

75 INT. BATHROOM - SAME 75

Kassie getting wrapped in a towel by Beth as the lights flicker and the little girl SCREAMS as they go dark.

BETH
It’s okay, it’s just a black-out.

76 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SECONDS LATER 76

The vinyl record winds to a halt. Danny breathless. A final look to the STRIKING IMAGE in The Book. Slams it closed.

SNAP BACK TO:

77 INT. ELEVATOR CAR - SAME 77

Under the dim flickering PURPLE GLOW of one emergency light Ellie gasps for breath. Eyes wide with end-of-life fear as -

A GROWLING VOCAL surging with aggression rises. It's heavy breathing so close that her hair moves in it's breeze.

A HAND grabs her face. Not that we can see it - but only the imprints of its digits on her skin. An invisible force.

Ellie tries to escape it's grip - but instead her mouth stretches open wide and she begins to choke as -

The shape of a FIST appears beneath her skin - pushing into the inside of her cheek. Forcing her flesh to it's limit.

The fist unfurls into a GNARLED HAND. The sound of skin inside her mouth tearing as it grips her tightly within and -

CRACK. Her jawbone snaps.

CUT TO:

78 INT. LIVING AREA, THE APARTMENT - SAME 78

The space lit only by city light ambience and moonlight. It's dominated by the sound of rain lashing against the windows.

Bridget's bedroom door opens. She peers - eyeballs the murk.

BRIDGET
Hello?

Kassie and Beth emerge from the bathroom. Beth's cellphone flashlight engaged. Lands on Bridget, who masks her eyes.

BETH
You okay?

Nods and makes to a window. Through the rain-soaked panes, she can still see twinkling lights from nearby buildings.

BRIDGET
I think it's just us that's out.

Off her words, the sound of a door. Everybody turns to see - Danny emerging from his bedroom. Stoney-faced and shaken.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Danny?

He doesn’t respond. Trapped inside his own head it seems.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Hey, DANNY?!

He looks up, not making direct eye contact and mutters -

DANNY
Must have been a power surge after the quake, right?

Before anyone answers, Kassie lands a more relevant question -

KASSIE
Where's Mom?

79 INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 79

A gentle knock followed by the door creaking open. Beth and Kassie poke their heads in to see - A DARK SHAPE on the bed.

KASSIE
Mom?

No response.

BETH
You sleeping El?

Beth cautiously shines her cell-light towards the bed to reveal this shape is nothing more than - pillows.

KASSIE
Where is she?

CUT TO:

80 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 80

Accompanied by GRUMBLED BREATHING - a see-sawing POV weaves *slowly* along the corridor. Its bead set on the door of #81.

SNAP BACK TO:

81 INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 81

Cell-torch in one hand - Danny pulls open a hatch in the wall. A FUSEBOX. He starts flicking switches. Unresponsive.

Bridget lights CANDLES. Breaking the darkness with soft flickering light. Completely unaware that at the end of -

82 INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 82

The front door peels open to reveal - A DARK FIGURE. Stock still in the entrance. Its pose strange. Breathing heavy.

83 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 83

Bridget moves to light more candles. Her eyes land on the figure. Moving jerkily towards her. A moment to twig, then -

BRIDGET
Mom?

Danny looks up in response. Darts his light beam towards her. Beth and Kassie step from Ellie's room just in time to see -

84 INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 84

The light illuminates Ellie. Pale and glassy-eyed. Her mouth slack and open at a strange angle. Face a little bloodied.

Totally oblivious to the light. She moves forward with an odd jerky gait and slips through the side door into the kitchen.

85 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 85

Almost instantly - CLATTERING NOISES from within. The kids concerned eyes fix on Beth for answers. She doesn't have any.

86 INT. KITCHEN - SAME 86

Close on: One side of Ellie's face. Eye wide and fixed. Lid flickering. Behind her - Beth steps just inside the space.

BETH
El?

Reverse on: Ellie's back just as she ignites the GAS COOKER.

She turns the dial until flames RISE and lick the dark. The three kids gather alongside Beth just in time to see her -

SLAM a frying pan onto the heat. Starts to crack EGGS with carelessness. Some hitting the floor. Beth treads closer.

BETH (CONT'D)
What's going on, sis?

Ellie grabs a spatula, stirs. Beth getting even closer when -

ELLIE'S VOICE
I had the most beautiful dream.

Ellie's tone odd and unsettling, affected by her hanging jaw.

ELLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)
We were together, sitting in a tall forest. The wind was clean and the birds were singing the sweetest melodies.

Close on: Ellie’s eye. Pupil roving in multiple directions.

ELLIE’S VOICE (CONT'D)
Melodies. Melodies. Melodies.

She stops, reaches with quivering digits and KA-RUNCH -

Pushes her jaw back into position on her face. Her voice starts to slowly descend to a lower octave as she speaks.

ELLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)
It was the perfect day, and all I could think about was how much I wanted to cut you all open and climb inside your bodies so we could stay one perfect family.

This perverse turn hits everyone in the stomach. Ellie breaks into a ticking laugh. Her shoulders shaking in time with it.

Lifts the pan from the flames. Holds it outwards. Her arms begin to vibrate, it spreads through her body until -

She drops the pan onto the floor with a jolting CLANG!

She turns. Sweating face etched with terror. Jaw slack. Breath fast and shallow.

A network of dark capillaries explode under her skin like lightning bolts. Her manic eyes connect with Beth and -

ELLIE
(panicked)
It's in me.

Recoils of fear as Ellie drops on all fours. She crawls towards them. Fast. Driving everyone instinctively back into -

87 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 87

Her midriff starts contracting rapidly like a dog about to puke. Her spine arches unnaturally upright with a CRACK and -

A THICK SLURRY waterfalls from her mouth.

A sickly WHITE pool threaded with bloody streaks spreads across the floor - pushing everyone back away from her.

As soon as this purge began - it ends. She looks to Beth. Gooey strings hanging from her mouth. With a gasping breath -

ELLIE
Don't let it take my babies.

She falls forward, planting face first into the steaming hot purge of her own creation. Stunned silence abounds.

SNAP CUT TO:

88 EXT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SECONDS LATER 88

Bathed in green-hued emergency lighting. Door #85 opens - Beth and Danny working together to get Ellie out of here.

A limp fish. Feet dragging on the floor as they move for - The elevator. Its doors jerkily open and then BANG shut.

Kassie and Bridget appear in the doorway. The little girl desperate to follow, her big sister holding her back.

Bridget and Kassie's distraught faces.

KASSIE
MOM!

BETH
Take her inside Bridget.

She doesn't budge.

BETH (CONT'D)
NOW!

Bridget puts her arms around Kassie, hustles her indoors. Shuts the door hard, and right off its BANG -

HARD CUT TO:

88Aa INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 88Aa

Bridget shuts the door.

KASSIE
What's wrong with her, Bridge?

BRIDGET
It's probably just the flu or something.

The look on Bridget's face instantly belies her words.

88Ab INT. ELEVATOR / CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER 88Ab

The elevator doors trundle open of their own accord to reveal - Beth and Danny clinging onto Ellie. Faces stunned to see -

Cables hang in purple flickering emergency light. Destroyed.

BETH
Stairs! Go. Go. Go.

Beth takes Ellie's weight as Danny moves for the stairs and pushes the door open - grinding to an instant halt.

Beth's focus on the unconscious drooling Ellie.

BETH (CONT'D)
Come on El...wake up, wake-up...

Gives a sharp look back up to Danny.

BETH (CONT'D)
Danny!

He slowly turns to face her - his face written in fear.

DANNY
They're gone.

Beth confused, leaves Ellie behind and quickly moves to join Danny. Entering the stairwell to see -

88A INT. STAIRWELL VOID - CONTINUOUS 88A

A view from the bottom of this deep void. Steel bars poke out at bent angles where the steps to freedom should exist.

A pile of RUBBLE on the landing below. STAIRWELL COLLAPSED.

They are trapped.

Shaken to her core, Beth turns back to -

88B INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 88B

Ellie's head tilts to face her. Eyes wide. Frozen in a stare.

SNAP TO:

89 OMITTED(CONTENT MOVED TO 88AA ABOVE) 89

90 OMITTED 90

91 EXT. MONDE BUILDING - NIGHT 91

A black obelisk. Darker than the night. Rain still TEEMING.

CUT TO:

92 INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 92

Ellie on the bed. Gabriel pulls a bedsheet up to her waist. Closes the lids on her glassy dead eyes with his fingers.

Mr. Fonda watching. Smoking. Phone to his ear. BEEP. BEEP. BEEP. Lowers it down and looks up in agitation.

MR. FONDA
Network is still fucked.

Beth seated near the window - her candlelit face etched in stunned grief. Searching for words, when finally -

BETH
One minute she was fine, and the next she was talking crazy and...

Silence fills this anxious room, broken by -

GABRIEL
(mutters)
May I pray?

BETH
She's not...wasn't...religious.

GABRIEL
It’s just a few words. Join me.

He offers hands. Mr Fonda and Beth left with little choice but to take hold. Gabriel closes his eyes, bows his head.

GABRIEL (CONT'D)
Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God...

MR. FONDA
(interrupts)
What the hell happened to her face?

Gabriel opens his eyes.

GABRIEL.
...rest in peace.

Their hands separate, and Gabriel blesses himself quickly.

MR. FONDA
It looks like somebody beat up.

His words ring true. Driving anxiety higher in the room.

GABRIEL
There’s an old fire escape ladder on the north side of the building. I could try to get down to raise the alarm. Get some help up here.

MR. FONDA
You’ll need to go through eighty-**four.**

GABRIEL
Shit. Unoccupied, right?

MR. FONDA
Like most of this condemned dump.

GABRIEL
You got the tools. We could just cut right through the door.

MR. FONDA
All in my truck. You ain't getting through these old doors without something heavy duty.

93 INT. BRIDGET & KASSIE'S BEDROOM - SAME 93

Glow in the dark stars adorn the wall. Beneath, on a bed -

A wobbly chinned Bridget. Kassie pinned to her. Clutching a lit PINK flash-light. The little girl deep in shock.

Danny in the far corner. Frozen in grief.

KASSIE
I want Dad to come home.

BRIDGET
He will. When we get the phones working, he'll come right back.

KASSIE
How do you know he will? You said Mom was gonna be okay.

Kassie's innocent statement stings Bridget.

KASSIE (CONT'D)
I wanna see her.

She wriggles out of Bridget's grip.

BRIDGET
No Kassie, wait.

Grabs her by the arm. Kassie tries to tug free.

KASSIE
Stop it!

Danny breaks out of his grief ridden stare and -

DANNY
We should all go see her together.

He approaches Kassie. Throws his arm around her, pulls Bridget in close too. Siblings united in distress.

CUT TO:

94 INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 94

Close on: An AIRCON VENT on the wall. A FLY crawls out. Rubs its sticky legs together. Takes off. Lands on Beth's cheek.

She swats it away. Phone to ear. Trying to call out, repeatedly hit by that sharp negative - *BEEP. BEEP. BEEP.*

Hangs up. Steels, and finally - looks at Ellie. Treads gently to her. Fighting emotion, gingerly sits on the bed's edge.

BETH
I don't know what to do, El. Your the one that always has the answers. I'm too scared to even go face the kids right now.

She takes Ellie's contorted hand in hers. Looks at her perfectly painted nails, bar one that is cracked in half.

BETH (CONT'D)
No matter how busy you ever got, you still always found time for everyone...

She looks to Ellie's face - streaked with vomit. She uses her sleeve and begins to gently wipe her skin clean.

BETH (CONT'D)
I don't think I could ever be a Mom like you...

Begins tidying Ellie's matted hair. Tears brimming.

BETH (CONT'D)
...and I can't believe we're never gonna talk again.

Her own true words cut hard. She can't hold back anymore. Her tears begin to flow in silent waves, until suddenly -

ELLIE'S VOICE
Hey Bethy-boo. It's Ellie...

Beth looks to Ellie's face. Confused.

ELLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)
...just calling to say hi and em...me and Jay...

Beth slowly looks to her phone to see - the screen illuminated. The loudspeaker somehow on. Signal connected!

ELLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)
...we uh...you know what, just call me when you get five okay. I need some little sister advice.

Beth grabs hold of the device, tries to hang up the voicemail call, but the phone is totally unresponsive to her gestures.

BEEEEEEEEEEEEEP.

A pause, a crackle, and then with in a strange cold tone -

ELLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Beth? Beth? You have to help me
Beth. You have to...I'm burning.
I'm burning alive. AND I LOVE IT!!!

Low ticking laughter rises then - CHINK. Phone screen cracks.

Beth slowly turns to see - Ellie's eyes wide open. The laughter coming from within her. Before Beth can react -

The single FLY lands on one open eyeball and - Ellie BLINKS. The small action sends Beth leaping out of her own skin.

KASSIE'S VOICE
Mommy?

Ellie's head suddenly flops the other direction to see - the kids in the doorway. Tearful innocent faces stunned to see -

Their mother looking back at them with WIDE OPEN BLINKING EYES. The kids burst in. A scrambling desperate unit.

DANNY
MOM!

BRIDGET
SHE'S ALIVE!

With a raspy gasp - Ellie sits bolt upright. Beth rushes to her - lays her hands on her face. Instantly recoils.

BETH
She's burning up!

HARD CUT TO:

95 INT. BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER 95

Beth and Danny lever Ellie awkwardly into the already full tub from Kassie's beth. Fire the cold faucet on full blast.

Ellie's facial features are in flux. The muscles beneath her skin are having a spasmodic battle with each other.

Her eyes roll over white, deep in her head. Beth plunges a washcloth into the water and begins to mop Ellie's brow.

The cloth comes back bloodied in return. Her skin is already ROTTING. A hideous necrosis that shocks everyone.

BRIDGET
I'll get ice!

96 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 96

Bridget races past Kassie standing in Ellie's room. Eyes fixed on the bathroom door. Not quite able to see inside.

96A INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 96A

BANG! BANG! BANG!

At the door of #82 - Gabriel with a screwdriver and hammer. Trying to break the lock to the unoccupied apartment open.

Mr. Fonda steps up behind him. Agitated and twitchy.

MR. FONDA
I'm getting my shotgun and blasting it open.

GABRIEL
Just gimme a minute, okay?

MR. FONDA
I don't like being trapped.

Gabriel looks to him. Sharp.

GABRIEL
We're all on edge enough without guns getting fired in here.

Mr. Fonda considers. Looks to see the back of Jake and Scott standing in front of the creepily active elevator doors.

96B INT. ELEVATOR CAR (STATIC) - CONTINUOUS 96B

A view from within. The doors open to reveal - The Boys skewed faces, observing the busted car.

JAKE
How the fuck are we gonna get burrito delivery?

Scott shrugs, the doors slam shut as we -

HARD CUT TO:

97 INT. BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS 97

Ellie breaks into a violent fit. Thrashing in the tub. Beth and Danny try to get a grip, but it grows in intensity until -

Ellie is THRUST UPWARDS and clean out of the water. Pinned hard and upside down against the wall by AN UNSEEN FORCE.

Bridget arrives in the doorway. Stunned by the vision of her gravity defying Mother. Drops bags of ice. Cubes scatter.

She backs off and joins Kassie in Ellie's bedroom just as -

Ellie's limbs begin to TWIST. Her body turns and takes pivots her around as her cavernous mouth emits -

A VOCAL THUNDERSTORM

Beth and Danny slam protective hands over their ears as this auditory onslaught shatters the mirror and wall tiles.

The water in the bath begins to BUBBLE and STEAM. Boiling.

98 INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM - SAME 98

Bridget grabs Kassie and they hunker in a protective ball. Covering their ears from the scream.

SNAP TO:

99 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 99

Ellie's SCREAM breaks out and hits the Neighbors ears.

Gabriel and Fonda's shared bead drawn to the door of - #85 as Jake and Scott make haste back up the corridor towards them.

SNAP BACK TO:

100 INT. BATHROOM - SAME 100

Close on: THE RUBBER DUCKY. Melting in the scalding water.

Ellie's mouth snaps shut and she drops from the air like a rag-doll into - the boiling toiling liquid below.

Disappears instantly under the surface without a whimper.

Silence bar the SLOSHING of the settling water and Beth's rapid breathing as she slowly edges towards the tub.

Adrenaline spiked terror hangs between her and Danny until - VUMP! Ellie's blistered fingers curl over the tub's lip.

Instantly followed by - the slow rise of her scalded head. Her white eyes roll back to reveal sickly jaundiced pupils.

This is not the sister and mother they know and love anymore.

THIS IS A DEMONIC FORCE OF DIABOLICAL NATURE.

DANNY
Mom?

A gaping grin spreads wide, and she begins to laugh. Deep from within her guts until she spits with inhuman ire -

DEMON
Mommy's with the maggots now.

She slides from the tub to the floor like a slippery eel.

With a burst of possessed potency she goes for Beth. Snatching. Danny grabs his Aunt and drags her back and into -

101 INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 101

He kicks the door shut. Breathless silence abounds until, the bathroom door slowly creaks open and -

Ellie's head leers from behind the frame in sinister profile. Eyes wide. Skin blistering. Hints of EXPOSED SKULL beneath.

Danny backs off into the sitting room. Stunned by the vision.

A knowing sneer spreads slowly across her face and - a hideous mocking snigger rises from deep within her being.

Her foot slides into view. Toes curled - claw like. A CRUNCHING sound as they splay outwards to take weight and -

Her entire body slumps forward and into full view.

101A INT. ELLIE'S BEDROOM - SAME 101A

Bridget looking through Ellie's bedroom door to see a hint of her diabolical mother. In her hand - a shard of sharp MIRROR.

101B INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 101B

A moment of sheer heart attack as her glare fixes on - Beth.

Hideous BONE CRUNCHES as she goes after her. Fast. Like a marionette under the control of a puppeteer on amphetamines.

Mirror shard wielded. Instantly swipes for Beth. A near miss.

The terrified Danny can barely believe what he is seeing, just as Bridget emerges from Ellie's bedroom.

BRIDGET
Mom, stop it!!

Keeps slashing, over and over until - CRUNCH! The glass goes through one of Beth's defending hands and out the other side.

She screams in agony. Ellie grunts with pleasure as she twists the glass deeper into her desperate sister’s palm.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Stop it!

She yanks the glass back out of Beth’s hand, blood splattering all over the floor. Wields for another hit when -

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
STOP ITTTTTT!!!

Her gutsy roar reverberates and Ellie suddenly FREEZES mid-strike. Beth backs off, grasping desperately at her hand.

Danny rushes to Beth as Bridget steps towards the stock-still Ellie. Approaching cautiously from behind to the sound of -

ELLIE'S VOICE
(gently)
It's not my fault Bridget.

Beth quickly wrapping her hand up. Danny in total shock.

BETH
Stay back Bridge.

The bloody glass shard drops from Ellie's hand to the floor.

ELLIE'S VOICE
What's happening to me sweetheart?

Bridget fighting back tears.

BRIDGET
I dunno Mom.

ELLIE'S VOICE
I do.

She turns and faces Bridget. Totally non-threatening.

ELLIE
I'm free now...

Her features turn instantly angry, sharp and vengeful.

DEMON
... free from all you tittie-
sucking parasites.

A judder of possessed energy courses through Ellie. The horrible sound of GRINDING BONE as her broken body realigns.

Bridget struck in terror as -

This POSSESSED vision of her Mom looms. She grabs Bridget by the shoulders and with a burst of supernatural power -

Drives her backwards into a wall. Bridget hits the deck. Hard. Ellie darts a hand to her desk and grabs hold of -

THE TATTOO GUN. It BUZZES to instant life in her grip.

She drops and straddles the terrified Bridget. Her arm extends and - she jabs the rapidly firing needled-point -

Into her OWN gory cheek. Pulls back out. Dripping in blood.

Jabs it for - Bridget's wide open eyeball. Just before it connects, the girl forces her head sideways, cheek points up.

The gun's BUZZ lowers in pitch as its bloodied tip scratches into the surface of her skin. Bridget SCREAMS, flails and -

Knocks the tattoo gun clear. In response -

DEMON (CONT'D)
Lemme kiss it better.

Ellie's rotting tongue slides from her mouth and -

She uses it's tip to lick inside the fresh tattoo mark, then - plants a sudden sticky smooch right INSIDE Bridget's mouth.

THA-THUMP! Ellie is suddenly side-swept. Skids across the floor and through the archway that leads to the DARK kitchen.

Danny with a dining chair in hand. Breathless. Beth rushes to Bridget who is gripping the wound on her face.

BETH
I'm getting us all out of here.

From within the darkness of the kitchen -

DEMON'S VOICE
Where you gonna run to now Beth?

All eyes quickly fix on the pitch black kitchen entrance as -

DEMON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
NO WAY OUT!
NO WAY OUT!!
NO WAY OUT!

Her voice turns into MOCKING LAUGHTER. Ever loudening.

102 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 102

The demonic mirth is heard by the very unsettled neighbors who have now gathered close to the door of #85.

JAKE
I should check if Bridget's okay.

He motions towards the door. Gabriel puts up a defensive arm.

GABRIEL
I'll go...

Shares a concerned look with Mr. Fonda.

MR. FONDA
I'm getting my gun.

Gabriel doesn't disagree this time as he backs away towards his apartment. Gabriel reaches for the door handle and -

CUT TO:

102A INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 102A

Close on the unlocked deadbolt as the door CLICKS open.

Gabriel peers inside. The laughter continues to reverberate.

103 INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 103

Beth and the kids terrified focus is on the kitchen's dark archway, and the rise of the -

DEMON'S VOICE
Who wants to rot next with Ellie?

Without waiting for an answer - a crooked hand darts from the darkness. A gnarled index finger pointing right at - Danny.

DEMON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Eeenie...

Hand snaps quickly towards Bridget.

DEMON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
...meenie..

Another crunching readjustment and the aim is at Kassie.

DEMON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
...miney...

103A INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 103A

Gabriel looks to see the reverse outline of Ellie in the flickering light. Stunned to see she is on her feet.

GABRIEL
Ellie?

Ellie's head slowly turns to see Gabriel. She glares with vicious blood lust in her widening eyes. Points right at him.

DEMON
(growls)
...you.

Before Gabriel can compute the hideous vision he is presented with, Ellie races from the darkness. Launches and latches on.

103B INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 103B

Beth and the kids scramble to look down into -

103C INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 103C

Ellie's arms and legs are wrapped tight around Gabriel's upper body. He ROARS, flails, and stumbles backwards into -

104 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 104

Ellie tightens her pincered grip on Gabriel. He tries to get her off. A desperate dance with this supernatural beast.

Jake and Scott cower in the corner as -

Gabriel looks up at Ellie's twisted maniacal face. Teeth dripping, eyes full of rage. His widen in primal fear as -

She snaps her head forward, connects with a CHOMP over his left eye socket. SUCKS viciously, then - a loud CRUNCH.

Gabriel BELLOWS. A burst of adrenaline and he throws her off him to reveal - his socket now a teeth marked black void.

<u>His eye is gone.</u>

Plants his hands over the hole as crimson runs through his fingers. Drops to ground. His pained moans overridden by -

The CHOKING sound that Ellie is making. She's on all fours. COUGHING and WRETCHING. And then, with one propulsive HACK -

Gabriel's eyeball fires from her throat and right into - <u>Jake's aghast mouth.</u> Coughs and splutters.

Grabs his neck - too late. *He's already swallowed it.* Shit!

Looks to Scott with fear as - Ellie sneers at him, and with the tone of a playground taunt -

DEMON
(coos)
I can see inside you!

Jake WRETCHES. Drops to his knees, clutching his throat.

Ellie darts a snarling look to the gathered family in the open door of #85 just as - Beth swings it shut with a SLAM!

105 INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 105

Beth quickly LOCKS the internal DEADBOLT just as a sudden weighty BANG hits the door. Presses her back against it as -

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!

106 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 106

Ellie smacking her forehead into the door. Over and over.

107 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 107

Beth keeps braced against the frenzied attack. The door rattling in its frame. The force outside relentless as -

CRACKS form around the DEADBOLT lock. Shit.

Action stations. Bridget and Danny combine to push a heavy LOW CABINET towards the door. Beth moving aside as they -

RAM it hard against the doorframe. Beth's eyes connecting with the old pink bicycle, and - its CHAIN LOCK.

She grabs hold - wraps it around the door handle and quickly loops it around heating pipes that run floor to ceiling.

Pulls TIGHT Locks it off. Rattled to their core - the foursome step back. The banging slows and finally stops.

Silence for a moment. Then, commotion. Panicked VOICES.

Beth edges back towards the door. Kneels atop the low cabinet and brings her eye cautiously towards - THE PEEPHOLE.

108 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR (PEEPHOLE POV) - SAME 108

A singular locked POV with fish-eyed distortion. Empty until -

Sudden motion as - Scott runs for his life. Ellie in instant darting pursuit. The duo out of Beth's field of vision when -

A relay of PAINED SCREAMS. A half second of silence and -

THUNK. Scott flies through the air and hits the opposing wall with force. Upright *just* long enough for us to see -

He has no ARMS ANYMORE! He drops to the floor. Twitching.

108A INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 108A

On Beth - frozen in fear as she barely believes what just happened in front of her eyes.

INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR (PEEPHOLE POV) - CONTINUOUS

Little Scott still twitching and groaning when - BOOM!

The one eyed GABRIEL pops up right in front of the peephole.

109 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 109

Beth recoils in horror to the spluttering sound of -

GABRIEL'S VOICE
Help me, please help me...

Beth brings her eye back to the peephole just in time to see -

110 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR (PEEPHOLE POV) - SAME 110

Ellie's jagged-nailed hand grabbing the front of Gabriel's throat with a firm grip on - HIS WINDPIPE. Yanks and -

A blood mist sprays the peephole glass, turns it crimson as - She pulls it clean from his neck. He drops to the ground.

Ellie's dark figure looms in front of the peephole until -

BANG! She is suddenly BLOWN right of view. *How?* Mr. Fonda steps into sight. A smoking DOUBLE BARREL SHOTGUN raised.

He takes a downward aim about to fire again when -

111 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 111

BANG! Beth and - the trio of kids jolted by the blast.

112 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR (PEEPHOLE POV) - SAME 112

Mr Fonda watching the floor as - GRUMBLING LAUGHTER RISES. He grabs cartridges from his pocket. Reload. TWO shells.

Panic rising. He finishes. Cocks the gun. Too late! He is dragged to the floor and out of sight. PAINED WAILS until -

Ellie rises back to her feet - glares towards the door.

113 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 113

Beth backs off the cabinet. Mind racing, looks to the kids.

Pushes past them and makes immediate haste into -

114 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 114

Rushes to a cracked window, pulls it open, feverishly scans -

115 EXT. DEAD END NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS 115

Rain hammering. A single CAR trundles past into the night.

116 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 116

Beth pulls open another window. Through the downpour she can see - the very distant dark shape of SOMEBODY moving past -

The buzzing lights at the front - Convenience Store.

BETH
HEY! HEY THERE! HELLO!!

SNAP TO:

117 EXT. DEAD-END NEIGHBORHOOD - CONTINUOUS 117

It's A HOMELESS MAN. Pushing a stacked shopping cart.

BETH'S VOICE
(distant echo)
Hellooooooooooooooooaaaa...

Her plea cannot penetrate the relentless din of the rain.

118 INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 118

Kassie hunkered on an arm chair. Knees under chin. Shivering.

Danny pacing in a small circle - his mind on fire. His tight path suddenly blocked by - Bridget. She's equally disturbed.

BRIDGET
Don't you think Mom looks just like one of the pictures from that book?

Danny stumped.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
Answer me Danny.

Words jammed in Danny's throat.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
You shouldn't have stolen it.

DANNY
This isn't my fault...I...

Bridget's emotion overtakes and - she rams him into the wall.

BRIDGET
IT IS YOUR FAULT!!!

Danny grabs her back by the scruff - trying to shake her off.

DANNY
GET OFF ME!!!

Kassie races to intervene, pleading for them to -

KASSIE
STOP IT!

The commotion draws Beth's attention from the windows when - VUMP! She's instantly hit in the stomach with searing pain.

Dizzied by the sudden onset. She grips her midriff and slides against the wall. Through blurred pained vision observes -

The trio of siblings - locked in this physical altercation.

Beth grits, pushes through the pain. Pushes to her feet and -

BETH
STOP IT!!!

Marches right at the kids. Pulls them apart from each other.

BETH (CONT'D)
You don't turn on each other. EVER.

Her firm issuance draws solemn teary eyed nods of agreement.

Bridget's chin wobbles and she lunges forward again at Danny. This time - she HUGS him with all her might. He grips tight.

Kassie joins the embrace - reaches and pulls Beth in too. A moment of comfort until - Danny's eyes connect with Beth's.

DANNY
I need to show you something.

CUT TO:

119 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 119

The Book sits ominous on Danny's desk. He faces off to it.

DANNY
I found it after the quake in an old vault under the parking garage.

Beth steps up beside him. Staring. Wide-eyed. The Book a strange and confusing object to her weary eyes.

CUT TO:

120 INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 120

Bridget on the sofa. Catatonic and shivering. Holding a towel to the wound on her face. Kassie watching her intently.

KASSIE
Does it hurt bad?

Bridget manages a meek nod, lowers the towel to see - the staining inside is not blood red, but DARK and ANGRY.

She pushes to her feet and makes haste across the room.

KASSIE (CONT'D)
Bridget?

She doesn't respond to her little sister - vanishing into the darkness of the kitchen. The little girl left alone when -

ELLIE'S VOICE
(coos)
Kass-ssie...

The voice spikes the little girl's ears.

CUT TO:

121 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 121

Beth gingerly opens The Books cover and begins to leaf through its pages. It's HIDEOUS IMAGES instantly unsettle.

CUT TO:

122 INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 122

Slow push towards the barricaded front door at the far end.

ELLIE'S VOICE
Kass-ssie...come here, little lady...

Reverse - looking from the door back towards the living area. Kassie peers around the wall. Scared and confused.

ELLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Well, there you are.

CUT TO:

123 INT. KITCHEN - SAME 123

Hiss. Spark. WHOOSH - a gas ring erupts in flame. Bridget turns it up full, creating a flickering light.

Cloth still pressed against her cheek, she stares right into the flame - stoney-faced, as if devoid of personality.

She lowers the cloth and looks at it - dark bloody goo. It triggers something in her and - she suddenly reacts -

Pulls open a cupboard and digs out - A FIRST AID KIT.

Places it on the counter. Turns to a CRACKED mirror inside the box lid. Eyeballing her own reflection to see -

The tattoo wound on her cheek is raised and sore. She probes gently with her finger and - DARK liquid runs from within.

She grabs an aerosol can of ANTISEPTIC SPRAY. Un-lids. Brings the nozzle close. Grits her teeth, about to spray as we -

CUT TO:

124 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 124

Close on: Kassie's feet. Moving forwards. Towards the door. Her face etched in confusion. Being coaxed forward by -

ELLIE'S VOICE
That's it my baby, there's no need to be scared.

She stops just short. Quiet on the other side now.

KASSIE
Mom?

A moment of ear-splitting silence, and then -

ELLIE'S VOICE
I'm right here sweetie. Can you open up and let me in please?

Kassie considers, then - clambers atop the low cabinet. Stands up - elevating herself to peephole eye level.

125 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR (PEEPHOLE POV) - CONTINUOUS 125

The view is still a light red color from the earlier melee. Ellie sits crosslegged on the floor. Twirling her hair.

While her face is still rotten, it has lost its diabolical skew. Drawn in total innocence now. She looks up at the door.

ELLIE
Hey there, cutie-pie...

CUT TO:

126 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 126

Hints of disturbing images from The Book's pages are - reflected in Beth's watering wide eyes.

DANNY'S VOICE
Hey Beth...

She looks up from the book to see - Danny with the vinyl.

DANNY
I took these too. I thought they'd be rare and maybe worth something. There's this creepy priest on them reading passages from The Book. It was like a weird dark prayer and when he spoke the words...everything changed.

A subtle sound draws Beth's gaze back to The Book to see - The pages have begun to gently leaf of their own accord.

CUT TO:

127 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 127

Kassie with her eye still pressed to the peephole inquires -

KASSIE
What's wrong with you Mom?

128 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR (PEEPHOLE POV) - SAME 128

Ellie rises from the floor in a single clean motion and - takes a couple of unthreatening baby-steps forward.

ELLIE
I was just feeling sad about me and your Dad. But, he's here now, he came home to see us. We're getting back together. We love each other.

She glances to her right - out of Kassie's field of vision.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Isn't that right, my darling?

Ellie blows a kiss to wherever Kassie cannot see, then looks back to the door and Kassie with a big smile on her face.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
And, we love you too.

CUT TO:

129 INT. KITCHEN - SAME 129

A pile of black and red tinged wipes on the kitchen counter. Bridget finishes cleaning her wound with another.

Looks back at her reflection with trepidation to see -

The veins surrounding the tattoo wound on her face are raised and dark. Jaggedly spreading up her face and down her neck.

A sudden hint of GIGGLING laughter spikes her ears. From behind her. She snaps around to see - nobody is there.

DEEP DEMONIC VOICE
(hisses)
Bridgetttt...

The voice spins her back to the mirror. Jolted by her own reflection as - dark inky liquid begins to run from her nose.

CUT TO:

130 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 130

The pages of The Book are shuttling at supernatural speed, flicking forwards and backwards until they stop dead on -

A harrowed female face. Staring at us with haunted eyes and from within - a single dark TEAR runs down her cheek.

CUT TO:

131 INT. KITCHEN - SAME 131

Rivulets of dark inky liquid begin to trickle from Bridget's EYES and EARS too. About to vocalise her terrified reaction -

The liquid starts to run from her mouth. She begins to CHOKE.

CUT TO:

132 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR HALLWAY (PEEPHOLE POV) - SAME 132

Ellie brings her face right up to the peephole.

ELLIE
Open up and let us in Kassie.

She smiles. Broad.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
We can be a big happy family again!

133 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 133

Kassie disturbed by this closer view of Ellie's hideous face.

KASSIE
You don't look so good Mom.

ELLIE'S VOICE
Nothing a big 'ol hug and kiss from you won't fix. Open up now like a good girl.

Kassie's small shaking hand reaches towards the key hanging from the chain's lock wrapped around the door handle.

ELLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)
(tinged with demonic tone)
That's it.

She grips the key. Her young mind desperately confused.

ELLIE'S VOICE (CONT'D)
(more demonic)
Come on now, do it for Mom and Dad.

CUT TO:

134 INT. KITCHEN - SAME 134

Still choking hard, Bridget fires the faucet with one hand, grabs a glass with the other, fills it, and drinks deep.

Spitting and spluttering out the horror within her mouth. One hard sudden HACK and a DARK MASS lands on the counter top.

Motion within the vomit. A sickly soup of BUGS. Squirming for life inside the slick. Bridget stunned, drops the glass.

Off it's SMASH -

HARD CUT TO:

135 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 135

CLICK! - The lock opens. The chain falls slack and - BANG! The deadbolt on the door CRACKS under force. In a heartbeat -

Ellie's twisted forearm and hand is through a narrow gap in the door. Her diabolical digits snatch Kassie by the scruff.

KASSIE
HEEEEEELPAAAAAAAA!!!!!!

CUT TO:

136 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 136

Beth and Danny's heads dart up from The Book in response to Kassie's bellow. They make instant haste towards the racket.

137 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 137

Heads pivoting. Eyeballs searching for Kassie. Beth looks to -

138 INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 138

Kassie is off her feet. Trying to fight against Ellie's grip.

Beth races straight for her. She reaches out and grabs the girl in both arms - dragging her free from Ellie's grip as -

Danny lands his shoulder into the door. Trapping Ellie by the wrist. A DEMONIC WAIL from outside the door.

He slams it over and over until - Ellie's hand finally retreats. Keeps his weight against the door as -

Beth re-tightens the chain and - Clunk. Locks.

KASSIE
I'm sorry. I thought Mom was better.

DANNY
It's not Mom anymore, Kassie.

Beth steels and brings her eye back to the peephole to see -

139 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR (PEEPHOLE POV) - CONTINUOUS 139

Ellie's face is written in demonic anger as she glares back with murderous intent at Beth, and with vile precision -

DEMON
Open the door like you open your legs you stinking groupie slut.

She starts to HAMMER on the door again. A volley of fury.

BETH
I'M NOT A GROUPIE YOU BITCH!

140 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 140

Beth broken by her own outburst - turns to Danny and Kassie. Their nervous breathless faces staring right back at her.

HARD CUT TO:

141 INT. LIVING AREA - MOMENTS LATER 141

Beth alone - pacing in a state of total panic. Lost. Alone.

141A INT. BRIDGET & KASSIE'S BEDROOM - SAME 141A

A broken and distraught Danny holding the shaking Kassie in his arms. She looks up at her big brother and asks -

KASSIE
Where's Bridget?

141B INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 141B

The question answered by a loud CRASHING SOUND which develops into a series of loud BASHES and SMASHES.

Beth looks up sharply towards the flickering light from -

142 INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 142

Beth stops on the cusp. The fired up gas ring hissing on the cooker offers up a flickering glow and dancing shadows.

The unit doors are all open and covered in <u>bloody handprints.</u>

BETH
Bridget?

A CRUNCHING noise in response. Takes a tentative step inside -

CLANG!!! She jolts herself as her foot connects with a LARGE METAL POT. Looks to see COOKWARE strewn all over the floor.

Scans, until her gaze lands in the darkest corner on -

<u>Bridget</u>.

She's on her haunches on top of the counter. Back three quarters-turned to Beth.

Her head cocked upwards at an unusual angle - *as if she is watching something that is not there.*

An audible CRUNCHING emanates from her direction as her body twitches and jerks in small aggravated motions.

BETH (CONT'D)
(gently)
What you doing up there hun?

No response. Beth treads ever so gently towards her and -

Shines her beam to where Bridget's POV seems focused. Nothing but the gloomy blank area where ceiling meets wall.

She lowers her beam again to notice - a bloodied WINE GLASS in Bridget’s hand. A jagged piece missing from the thin bowl.

BETH (CONT'D)
Bridge?

She brings the sharp glass to her lips and - BITES HARD.

She is EATING the wine glass like it's a delicacy. Minces it aggressively between her teeth. Blood trickles from her gums.

BETH (CONT'D)
BRIDGET! NO!!!

Right off her words, the young woman snaps her head around with a preternatural CRACK. Her eyes wild and jaundiced.

Her mouth and lips cut up from her newly formed eating habit. She smiles, and in a sickly inhuman tone -

BRIDGET
I gotta kill the creepy crawlies
that got inside my tummy.

She swallows, her throat undulating as the glass goes down.

BRIDGET (CONT'D)
I don't like having things inside
my tummy. Do you Auntie Beth?

She giggles cheekily, and in a sudden flash of fury - she SHRIEKS and darts at Beth with an open bloody mouth.

Jabs the sharp glass stem - missing Beth's face by an inch. Beth looses her footing on the cluttered floor. Falls hard.

Bridget drops to the floor. Creeps forth like a stalking cat. Beth defends - throwing whatever kitchen items she can grab.

A mug, A coffee press, a four walled CHEESE GRATER. Bridget snatches the grater right out of the air and goes for Beth.

Snatches her by boot - jerks forward and with a strong motion and - runs the grater right across the back of Beth's calf.

Beth bellows in agony as - her hand lands on - A METAL SPATULA. Not ideal defense, but she spins around and -

Slaps Bridget hard across the left cheek. The girl's hideous head springs right, she grins and snaps back to Beth just as -

Bang! Takes a clean hit from a METAL POT right in the face.

Knocking the demonic girl backwards. She lands on the cusp of the kitchen side door just at the same time as - Danny.

He can barely swallow this vision of his sister when - BOOM! Her eyes spring wide open. Alive with fury.

Bridget launches back to her feet in a single swift motion.

143 INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 143

She's up and after him - chasing him back down the hallway.

144 EXT. FOURTEETH FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 144

On Ellie. Eyes wide and wild. Fists banging over and over on the door. Like she can sense the evil planted inside Bridget.

145 INT. BRIDGET & KASSIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 145

The chase continues fast into the room - Danny slammed against the wall as the shrieking Bridget's bead lands on -

Kassie in the middle of the room. Chases her down into the corner. Kassie landing in a chair. Grabs hold of -

STAFFANIE!

Just as her maniacal sister is about to snatch - Kassie raises to defend. Sharp end first.

It goes right into Bridget's wide open mouth and - KA-RUNCH! It drives clean out the back of her head in one motion.

The limping Beth lands in the doorway just in time to see -

Bridget turning around to reveal - Tiny Tear's head sticking from her mouth on the other end.

Everybody in total shock as - she desperately claws at this bizarre foreign body. Making a hideous choking sound.

Grips on the wooden protrusion at the mouth end and starts to pull it from her head. The worst splinter imaginable.

She pulls it fully clear. Mouth still open - drops to her knees and then falls forward. Hard. Dark blood pooling.

Tiny Tear's head detaches, rolls and stops in front of Kassie's feet. She looks up at Beth and Danny and -

SCREEEAAAAAAAAAAMSSSSSSS.

146 INT. BATHROOM - A SHORT TIME LATER 146

In flickering candlelight -

Close on: Kassie. Eyes fixed. Teeth chattering. In shock.

Beth dips a wash cloth into the sink and wipes blood spatter from the little girl's face as she gently hums to soothe.

Kassie finally blinks, slowly looks up at her Auntie, and with a quivering meek voice -

KASSIE
Is this a nightmare?

Beth forces a faux-smile.

BETH
Just like a nightmare, Kass.

KASSIE
Is what happened to Bridget and Mom gonna happen to us?

BETH
I won't let that happen. I promise.

KASSIE
You'd be a good Mom some day Auntie Beth.

Beth caught off guard by this unexpected statement.

BETH
Oh yeah?

KASSIE
Yeah. You know how to lie to kids.

Her innocent wit draws the glimmer of a tearful smile and off it - the creak of a door. Beth looks up to see Danny.

147 INT. BRIDGET & KASSIE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 147

Close on: Beth and Danny's faces. Haunted. Both looking at -

Bridget's body covered in a PAISLEY PATTERNED SHEET. Laid out flat on her bed and tied up with - Cords. Ties. Belts.

DANNY
Just in case she...

Beth nods in understanding, looks to him. Something ticking.

BETH
I wanna listen to that vinyl.

DANNY
It's too dangerous. Those words...

BETH
Maybe there's words on there that can help stop all this too?

Her notion ignites a glimmer of hope in him, but -

DANNY
We've got no power to run a turntable.

BETH
I can fix that.

SNAP CUT TO:

RAPID MONTAGE OF CLOSE-UPS:

HANDS grip the TATTOO GUN BATTERY.

SCREWS are removed with a SCREWDRIVER.

A PLUG HEAD is laid and CHOPPED OFF with a CARVING KNIFE.

SPARKS FLY as raw cable is attached to the battery.

The PLAY button is PRESSED with a firm finger and -

The TURNTABLE begins to rotate.

SNAP BACK TO:

148 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 148

Beth looks up from her work to Danny.

DANNY
You're sure about this?

She grabs hold of the knife. Hands it to him. Firmly.

BETH
I'm not sure about anything anymore.

She turns and stands over the vinyl collection laid on the bed. Begins to analyze. Scanning their numbered labels.

DANNY
I listened to the first, and then he spoke the words on the second.

Beth considers. Picks up the highest numbered record.

SEVEN - 27th January 1923

BETH
I guess I'll start at the other end then.

They share the meekest of anxious smiles.

149 INT. LIVING AREA - MINUTES LATER 149

Danny and Kassie's eyes are fixed on his bedroom door as Beth begins to close it. Anxiety in all three faces.

Danny holds Kassie's hand. Grips the knife in his other.

CUT TO:

150 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER 150

Overhead angle on: The turning vinyl on the record player.

Beth sitting in front of it. She plugs a cable jack into the amplifier and pulls LARGE HEADPHONES over her ears.

Clicks a SMALL BUTTON on the side and we are pulled into - SILENCE. All sound from outside the headphones is cancelled.

Beth lifts the tone arm, places the needle against the rotating vinyl surface. CRACKLING STATIC fills her ears.

She reaches with trembling fingers and begins to manually speed the record up until the rumbled return of -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
It is now three nights since I read from The Book. I make this final recording as a warning to whoever next comes into contact with its malignant pages.

The authority we heard when Danny first listened has now been replaced by the weak and weary mutter of a broken man -

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
My want to understand and commune with the forces beyond our realm could not have been more misguided.

HARD CUT TO:

151 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 151

Ellie's rotting head bowed - GLARING right into the door. It's as if she too can hear the words in the earphones.

LITTLETON'S VOICE
There is only death beyond. And, it came screaming at me in its most sinister of forms.

CUT TO:

152 INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 152

Danny standing firm with knife in hand. Kassie tucked in close behind him. On an emotional edge.

KASSIE
Is Bridget gonna come back like Mom?

DANNY
I don't know Kass...

CUT TO:

153 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 153

Beth's face furrowed in concentration as she listens to -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
With the might of our Lord's words, Shanahan and I attempted to drive out the demonic force that invaded Cortez.

CUT TO:

154 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 154

Ellie's CLAWED HANDS scrape against the wooden door. So hard that her long painted fingernails begin to CRACK and BREAK.

CUT TO:

155 INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 155

The SCRAPING from behind the door turns the kids' fearful focus to the inner hallway.

155A INT. BRIDGET & KASSIE'S BEDROOM - SAME 155A

Bridget's toes poking out from the sheet. Twitching.

CUT TO:

156 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 156

The vinyl crackles, Beth trying to control its speed.

LITTLETON'S VOICE
It mocked our prayer, and Shanahan too became consumed by this foul entity, taken under its curse.

CUT TO:

157 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 157

A MEOWING triggers a flicker of animation in Ellie's eyes.

She turns her creaking neck. Eyes fixed on - the LARGE aircon grill in the corridor ceiling.

158 INT. CRAWL SPACE / GRILL - CONTINUOUS 158

A WHITE CAT is sniffing at the inside of the grill.

159 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 159

A sinister smile grows on Ellie's disfigured face as she pulls her nails out of the grooves she has dug in the door.

CUT TO:

160 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 160

Beth deeply focused on the crackling words in her ears.

LITTLETON'S VOICE
Desperate to survive, I knew I had to kill what were once my brothers.

CUT TO:

161 INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 161

Danny makes towards the front. One arm out to keep Kassie safely back from him.

161A INT. BRIDGET & KASSIE'S BEDROOM - SAME 161A

Bridget's body convulses under the sheet. Her binds SNAP.

161B INT. INNER HALLWAY - SAME 161B

Close on: Danny's twitching eye as he moves to the peephole.

CUT TO:

162 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR (PEEPHOLE POV) - CONTINUOUS 162

The space is empty. No sign of the demonic Ellie.

CUT TO:

163 OMITTED 163

164 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 164

Distress spreading across Beth's face as she hears -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
I trapped them in the wood-shed and set it ablaze, but they danced in its flame and reveled in its burn.

CUT TO:

165 INT. INNER HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 165

A CLUNKING SOUND draws Danny and Kassie's attention away from the door to - the ceiling overhead. CREAKS and THUMPS.

They follow these moving sounds forward - totally unaware that - Bridget is tracking behind them.

Still sheeted - like a specter from a child's ghost story.

166 INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 166

Their gaze fixed up as dust and detritus falling from the ceiling above. Something LARGE is on the move, and -

It's heading straight for Danny's bedroom.

KASSIE
(hopeful)
Mr. Fonda's kitty hides up there sometimes.

DANNY
I don't think it's a cat.

CUT TO:

167 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 167

Beth's face begins to drain of hope as she listens to -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
I buried their squirming spitting corpses in the earth, but they arose again rotting and rage-filled.

CUT TO:

168 INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 168

Danny makes quickly towards his bedroom door. Leaving Kassie standing close behind him. Both of them totally unaware of -

Bridget.

Her crooked bare feet lift off the floor. Leaving her toes brushing the wooden surface. Skirting silently at Kassie.

The little girl totally oblivious, her focus on Danny as he reaches for the BRASS door handle. He stops short. Noticing -

The reflection of Bridget on the move in the glass door.

Snaps around just in time to see - the sheeted menace. Hands extended, about to snatch his kid sister.

He darts forward and - BANG! Shoulders Kassie aside. She hits the deck and smacks her face hard on the floor.

Bridget in a sudden frozen pose. Silent.

Danny backs off to see - his knife is stuck through Bridget's sheeted stomach - a dark wet circle forming quickly.

A bloody nosed Kassie backs under the sofa, into hiding as -

Bridget CACKLES beneath her sheet and - flies at Danny at rapid pace. Snatches him by the shoulders, drives him into -

168A INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS 168A

Danny hits the kitchen counter on the back wall. Hard.

Bridget pulls the knife out of her stomach. Raises it up in front of him - the blade dripping in dark blood.

Danny cowers in fear. And then, with a malevolent WAIL -

Bridget drives the blade right through Danny's arm. Pinning him firmly to the counter. He BELLOWS in agony.

CUT TO:

169 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 169

His pained cry echoes in the room, but does not break into Beth's protected audio-sphere. Her focus remains on -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
After hiding in the cellar for a night, I knew only one choice remained...

Buried in her auditory world, Beth is totally unaware that - The air-con grill is opening in the far corner of the room.

From within - Ellie crawls out of the dark vent-hole and moves down the wall like a gecko. Disappearing out of sight.

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
...complete bodily dismemberment.

His voice cracks into heavy breathing, and, he begins to sob.

CUT TO:

170 INT. KITCHEN - SAME 170

Bridget floats further off the floor - hovers over Danny. He claws with his free hand, pulling the sheet clear to reveal -

Her skewed demonic visage. She looms right over him. Opens her mouth and - blackened blood trickles all over his face.

He splutters, closes his mouth, squeezes his eyes shut. She grabs him by the throat, forcing him to gasp for air -

The trickle turns into bloodied spew which covers his face and fills his mouth as she pulls the knife from his arm.

Face twisted in agony, he spies - The ANTISPECTIC AEROSOL.

Eyes full of fury - Bridget raises the bloodied knife. Ready to deliver a fatal strike, as Danny snatches the can and -

Sprays it <u>into</u> the flaming cooker ring. A bursting fireball shoots forth and wraps all around Bridget just as -

<u>She plunges the knife right into the centre of his chest.</u>

She is alight. She SQUEALS and THRASHES in mid air, Danny keeping his finger on the trigger. Increasing the burn until -

Bridget hits the floor like a dead weight. Alight and still thrashing until finally - she falls still and silent.

He drops the can, looks to the knife in his chest. Struck with the terror of knowing his life is about to slip away.

CUT TO:

171 INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - SAME 171

Her face graver than ever, Beth still listening to -

LITTLETON'S VOICE
I chopped and I hacked and I...

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
(sobbing)
I failed.

A beat of painful static silence.

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Nothing can stop this demonic force.
(MORE)

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
Even its final remnants will come after you. You must RUN! All you can do is RUN!!!

Beth hangs her head in despair. Her gaze fixed down as - a shadow spreads across the floor at her feet. Her eyes widen.

She jolts - knocking the needle from the vinyl. Pulls the headphones off just as - Ellie rises up behind her.

Watching from the shadows with a sinister skew on her face. Eyes piercing in the dark. Beth registers, spins around as -

Ellie extends a gnarled finger. Hovers the tip of one sharp broken fingernail over the still turning record surface.

Ellie's nail touches against the vinyl. A loud CRACKLE and -

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
This horror will not stop until innocence is destroyed...

Littleton's voice is coming from deep *within* Ellie. Her mouth is FIXED WIDE OPEN. <u>She is the speaker now.</u>

LITTLETON'S VOICE (CONT'D)
...until evil be thy name.

Beth spies the SCREWDRIVER. Snatches and with a ROAR - rushes at Ellie. She pulls her crooked finger from the vinyl -

Her mouth slams shut and - she arrests Beth's attacking arm. Twists and launches her -

172 INT. LIVING AREA - CONTINUOUS 172

Right out through the bedroom doors - smashing her into a sideboard. She lands hard and looks up just in time to see -

Danny. Stumbling from the kitchen. He pulls the knife out from his chest. Drops to his knees, then his back.

Beth rushes to the stricken young man's aid. It's too late.

DANNY
I'm sorry Kass...

His head tilts to his little sister under the sofa. Makes eye contact with her and gently smiles as he breathes his last.

Kassie's tear filled gaze suddenly drawn away to see - Ellie's feet. Emerging from within Danny's bedroom.

Beth turns to face her too - A looming presence on the far side of the dining table. She pushes upright just as -

Ellie grips and pins her to the floor. Runs her sharp fingernails across Beth’s cheek and neck.

DEMON
I will dine upon your soul.

Poised to deliver a death strike. She stops. Her sickly eyes widening. She sniffs the air around Beth like a blind dog.

Reaches and - rips Beth’s dress open to expose bare midriff.

UNDER THE SOFA:

Kassie watching what is unfolding in breathless fear.

IN THE CORNER:

Ellie’s rotting tongue licks across Beth’s bare stomach. A shimmer of edgy excitement spreads on her face.

DEMON (CONT'D)
Two souls...

Beth stunned at this utterance. Their eyes connect and -

Ellie’s hand takes a clawed poise. The tips of her sharp nails resting against Beth’s pale sweat-glistened skin.

UNDER THE SOFA:

Kassie’s eyes fix on - the scissors she hid earlier! She reaches out for them - just beyond her grasp.

IN THE CORNER:

A desperate Beth begs -

BETH
(whimpering)
Don’t Ellie...please...

Ellie begins to chuckle - deep and heinous.

DEMON
Ellie waits in hell for you and
your unborn bastard baby...

She stabs her other hand forwards and grips Beth’s neck.

UNDER THE SOFA:

Kassie’s fingertips brush against the scissors handle.

IN THE CORNER:

Beth grabs Ellie's choking arm - tries to free herself, but the force of her grip is immoveable. All is lost now.

Ellie pushes her broken fingernails into Beth's flesh and trickles of blood begin to run from the five contact points.

KASSIE'S VOICE
AUNTIE BETH!!!!

Beth darts a look to see - Kassie beneath the sofa just as she slides the scissors right - ACROSS THE FLOOR.

They travel at a spinning pace INTO THE CORNER.

Beth releases her grip from the choking arm. Snatches the scissors. Drives them upwards with screaming force -

One blade right up the nose - the other against her face.

A moment of sudden silence as Ellie's 'good' eye turns inwards as if to try and see what has just been done. Then -

She suddenly drops back into a seated position. Blood running from her fresh wounds, as her head flops forward.

All animation appears to have left this evil being. Beth sitting upright opposite her. Breathless and stunned.

Beth locked in a stare at her dead sister until -

VUMP! A hand on her shoulder. Snaps up to see - a bloody nosed Kassie. Springs to action and leads her hastily into -

172Aa INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 172Aa

Begins to check the little girl all over. Urgently.

BETH
Are you hurt?

Kassie shakes her head. Beth releasing her grip as the little girl notices the marks left on her Auntie's stomach.

KASSIE
Your tummy is bleeding.

Beth looks down at herself. Notices the blood. Hastily wipes them away with her sleeve.

KASSIE (CONT'D)
Are you gonna be a Mom?

A direct hit. Beth freezes, then looks to Kassie and nods.

BETH
Yes.

She looks back to the door.

BETH (CONT'D)
And I’m getting all three of us out of here.

KASSIE
How?

Beth considers the question then -

HARD CUT TO:

172Ab INT. LIVING AREA - MOMENTS LATER 172Ab

Weapons in hand - Beth and Kassie make past the still inanimate Ellie and Danny. Moving swift and silent.

172A OMITTED 172A

173A OMITTED 173A

CONTENT OF DEADITE WAKE-UPS HAVE BEEN MOVED LATER.

173 OMITTED 173

174 OMITTED(CONTENT MOVED TO SCENE 172 ABOVE) 174

175 OMITTED 175

176 OMITTED 176

177 OMITTED 177

178 OMITTED 178

179 OMITTED 179

180 OMITTED 180

181 OMITTED 181

182 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS 182

The sound of motion behind the front door until - it slowly creaks open and - Beth peers cautiously out.

A clap of THUNDER and flash of LIGHTING illuminate in detail the carnage Ellie created out of the neighbors earlier -

The DISMEMBERED BODIES of Gabriel, Jake and Scott.

Beth covers Kassie’s eyes. Steers her past the slaughter and around Mr. Fonda’s inanimate corpse to stop in front of -

The door to *#84*. Arrests the handle. Still locked of course. Stares at the scattered toolbox on the floor.

Beth grabs the hammer and chisel. Steels and - BANG! Kassie flinches as - the sound echoes around the space.

Beth turns and looks back towards the frozen dead bodies.

Steels and - strikes again. BANG! Another look towards the slain. Fuck it - time to go at it properly.

She begins to hammer at the door - fast and rapid. A relay of sound echoing all around this space.

HARD CUT TO:

182Aa INT. LIVING AREA - SAME 182Aa

Lightning flashes.

Ellie remains dead still, until, her inwardly turned eye blinks back into existence, slides back front.

She reaches with her clawed hand. Grips the scissors handle and - pulls it slowly back out from her nasal cavity.

The eye it once penetrated has now turned fully red as she is suddenly yanked to her feet like a puppet come to life.

182Ab INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 182Ab

Beth at full raging roar as she delivers a final hit and - falls back breathless on the floor. The door still locked.

Looks back at the dead neighbor carnage to see -

Mr. Fonda's SHOTGUN in his dead hand. Scrambles for it.

Grabs hold of the shotgun STRAP. But Mr. Fonda's hold is firm. She's forced to manually free it from his stiff grip.

Gathers FOUR cartridges from the floor, and with hasty inexperience loads two and pockets two.

Makes back to the closed door of *#84*. Takes aim at its lock.

BETH
Cover your ears sweetie.

Kassie follows orders. Backs off as Beth steadies herself, ready to shoot.

ELLIE'S VOICE
Where you going Bethy-Boo?

Beth swings around to see *#81*'s door is wide open. Ellie shrieking at her at pace. BOOM! She shoots on instinct.

A flare of muzzle flash and a mist of blood fills the air.

The force of the recoil knocks Beth into the wall - Kassie lowers her hands from her ears.

182Ac INT. LIVING AREA / KITCHEN - SAME 182Ac

Danny sits bolt upright. Eyes roll from white to - a sickly jaundice. A rictus grin grows on his demonically skewed face.

Bridget peers out from within the kitchen. Her burnt skin smoking. The evil inside her is still very much alive.

182Ad INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 182Ad

Smoke clears to reveal - Ellie's lower left leg is mangled. She drops to one knee and reaches out with a quivering arm.

ELLIE
What have you done to me, Beth?

Her voice no longer demonic, but real and sincere sounding.

KASSIE
What's happening?

BETH
Do not look back here, Kassie.

ELLIE
She wants to take your Mommy away from you Kassie.

KASSIE
I know you're not my Mom anymore.

Beth fixes her aim. Right at - <u>Ellie's head.</u> Her older sister's eyes not full of ire - looking *almost* normal.

ELLIE
Don't take me from them.

Her words burn like a hot spike through Beth's heart.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You don't know what it's like to bring a life into this world, Beth.

Tears begin to roll from Ellie's eyes. <u>Tears of blood.</u>

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You want to kill that baby inside you. I know you do. Big sister always knows.

Her words bore into Beth's core, the shotgun wavers, until - Beth steels. Re-aims. About to pull the trigger when -

VUMP! Mr Fonda's hand snatches her by the ankle.

MR. FONDA
(barks)
THAT'S MY GUN YOU THIEVING CUNT!

The sudden jolt throws her aim off and she blasts Ellie in the upper body - mangling her arm at the shoulder joint.

Mr. Fonda glares at Beth with vicious demonic intent.

She spins the gun and smashes its stock right in his face. Yanks her leg free from his grip just as -

Possessed Bridget and Danny creep from *#81.* Eyes on Ellie.

They drop to their knees beside her and begin to WAIL. Their pained cries resolving quickly to in fact be - LAUGHTER.

Beth spies TWO shotgun shells on the floor. Grabs hold as - Ellie darts a look up to her. Face pure evil skew once more.

DEMON
Everybody here dies by dawn, Beth.

Off her issuance Mr. Fonda begins to scramble towards her - forcing her to abandon her reloading plans and back off.

MR. FONDA
Dead by dawn! Dead by dawn!

Gabriel's SINGLE EYE pops open, rises upright. Moves fast.

GABRIEL
Dead by dawn!

Jake and Scott follow suit, animation returning to them.

JAKE & SCOTT
Dead by dawn!

BRIDGET & DANNY
Dead by dawn!

The corridor alive. The neighbors dragging their mangled forms towards Beth forcing her to quickly back off as -

All the voices join in a mocking -

CHORUS
DEAD BY DAWN!
DEAD BY DAWN!
DEAD BY DAWN!
DEAD BY DAWN!
DEAD BY DAWN!

Beth reaches Kassie, grabs hold and leads her towards the only sanctuary that remains available to them - The Elevator.

The doors ahead trundling open and SLAMMING closed.

We move past the teasing neighbors and stop at Ellie. Her eyes are narrow and glaring forward.

Danny and Bridget still kneeling by her side. They reach out and - probe the blast wounds on her body with their fingers.

Then - slide their digits deep inside her wounds. She SCREAMS. Primal and horrifying. Off it's resonance -

HARD CUT TO:

182A OMITTED(MOVED TO 188A) 182A

182B OMITTED(ABSORBED INTO BOTTOM OF 182 ABOVE) 182B

183 INT. ELEVATOR CAR (STATIC) - MOMENTS LATER 183

Beth and Kassie careen inside the flickering purple space. Through hanging cables, Beth spies - THE BUTTON PANEL.

Hammers on the buttons as Kassie slides to the floor. Looking at the pursuing neighbors.

JAKE
Don't go little Kassie!

SCOTT
Stay and play dead with us.

GABRIEL
I tried to save your Mom.

MR. FONDA
But she wanted to be in hell
instead of with you.

They all begin to laugh together again. Sickly and inhuman.

Kassies slams her hands over her ears as the neighbors keep on coming. Beth looks to see the encroaching doom.

Pulls the two shells from her pocket and shakily loads the shotgun just as Kassie spies -

Ellie's keys - blocking the elevator door track. Beth closes the gun barrel just as Kassie grabs the keys and -

The elevator doors shut.

A breath of sanctuary as she hands them over to Beth. She turns back to the button panel and hammers 'P' for Parking.

Nothing happens. Tries again. Over and over. Still nothing. She presses ALL THE BUTTONS. *Anywhere* but this floor will do.

Button number 14 begins to fill up with RED. A moment to realize, it is BLOOD. It trickles out from within the button.

As soon as this hits home for Beth - more BLOOD starts to run quickly from all the remaining buttons.

SNAP CUT TO:

184 OMITTED 184

185 OMITTED 185

186 OMITTED 186

187 OMITTED 187

188 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 188

Crooked smiles spread on Bridget and Danny's faces as they - slide their hands deeper INSIDE Ellie's open wounds.

Their Mom's sickly eyes sparkle with excitement.

188A INT. DANNY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 188A

THE BOOK. Its pages shuttling forward and back until they come to an abrupt halt on the disturbing depiction of -

A MULTI-LIMBED BEING. A hideous fusion of BODY PARTS and screaming pained FACES. Climbing from a RIVER of BLOOD.

189 INT. ELEVATOR CAR (STATIC) - SAME 189

A RUMBLING as - The elevator begins to shake, rattle and - Blood bubbles up from beneath the floor. Spreading fast.

Kassie backs off into the corner and is suddenly drenched in more blood that pours from an open wiring panel. Kicking off -

A relay. Blood begins to pour from every open panel and crack within the elevator's internal structure. A fast rising flow.

Quickly rising to Beth's knees, she scoops the terrified Kassie into her arms. Hammers the blood spewing button panel.

CUT TO:

190 INT. FOURTEENTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - SAME 190

Thunder rolls and lightning flashes as Danny and Bridget slide further into Ellie's body. Elbows deep. Then shoulders.

We move ever faster down the corridor - towards the elevator and over the neighbors as they hammer on the door and bay -

NEIGHBORS
JOIN US! JOIN US! JOIN US!

Ending right on the window in the elevator door to see - Kassie's terrified face. Blood cascading behind her.

Her POV: A flash of lightning revealing the glimpse of -

A HUGE ARACHNID-LIKE BEING scuttling *fast* up the wall and through the open grill in the ceiling.

On Kassie's terrified face for one tick of the clock, then - blood suddenly fills up at the window space.

191 INT. ELEVATOR CAR (STATIC) - SAME 191

The elevator is two thirds full now. Kassie turns sharply to Beth. They embrace in the centre of the blood rise which is -

Pushing them towards the ceiling hatch - aiding an attempt escape. Beth holding tight to a cable - keeping centered.

BETH
Get ready...

The hatch almost within reach when - VUMP! It is suddenly pulled aside. A beat of total darkness then -

MULTIPLE HANDS creep in around it's edges. One by one.

Something is coming.

Beth lets go of the cable and pushes back into the corner. Faces dripping dread as the hands extend further - ARMS now.

Blood continues to rush from open hatches - filling up over a metal etched panel on the wall which reads - MAX WEIGHT.

Beth and Kassie stuck in the corner. Trapped between the devil and the deep red sea.

Moments from a certain death one way or another when -

The car suddenly judders, then drops and - blood rushes upwards as the duo are sucked fully under its surface.

In slow-motion: Beth and Kassie's intertwined bodies SWIRL in this CRIMSON TOIL. A pair of rag-dolls inside a STORMY WOMB.

They bounce against the walls as the elevator FALLS FAST and -

192 OMITTED 192

193 OMITTED 193

194 OMITTED 194

195 OMITTED 195

196 OMITTED 196

197 OMITTED 197

198 OMITTED 198

199 OMITTED 199

200 OMITTED 200

201 OMITTED 201

202 OMITTED 202

203 OMITTED 203

204 OMITTED 204

205 OMITTED 205

206 INT. PARKING LOT ELEVATOR LOBBY - SECONDS LATER 206

Silent under the glow of a flickering emergency light until -

CRASH! Doors BURST open and - Beth and Kassie are thrust out on a WAVE of churning blood.

They smack against the far walls. Lie motionless in the settling pool of red. Silence bar - creaking elevator metal.

Beth's eyes spring open. Popping white against her completely blood covered face. She gasps for air and sits bolt upright.

Rolls to Kassie. Tries to wake. She's non-responsive.

Beth distraught as she shakes and shakes her until, suddenly - Kassie's eyes peel open and stare wide and blinking at Beth.

KASSIE
Am I dead?

Beth shakes her head and - Kassie launches towards her. Throws her arms around Beth and hugs her for dear life.

Beth looks at the busted doors of the elevator. At it's blood drenched walls and flickering lights. Expecting the monster.

Nothing emerges.

SMASH CUT TO:

207 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - ONE SECOND LATER 207

It's DARK, bar the first vague hints of dawn light growing through small slat windows close to the lot's ceiling.

The DOORS blast open, and the blood soaked duo race forward leaving bloodied footprints behind them on the ground.

Beth's head pivots - eyes land on Ellie's ROADMASTER. Pulls the keys from her pocket. PIP-PIP. Disengages the alarm.

208 INT. ROADMASTER - SECONDS LATER 208

SLAM! Doors close as Beth and Kassie seat-up. Beth's slippery fingers trying to land keys in the ignition.

Kassie's bead set on the doors they came from as they swing gently on their hinges to - a full stop.

Beth slides the key home. Turns. The engine ROARS to life!

208A OMITTED 208A

208B INT. ROADMASTER - CONTINUOUS 208B

Beth sticks it into drive. Stamps on the gas.

208C EXT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 208C

The car reverses fast over the quake-crack on the ground.

208D INT. ROADMASTER - CONTINUOUS 208D

Kassie grabs a BEEPER, presses it and -

208E INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 208E

A GREEN light engages. The roller door at the far end of the lot begins to slowly rise upwards.

208F INT. ROADMASTER - CONTINUOUS 208F

Beth spins the wheel. Sets the stick into drive.

Hits the gas. Dart a few feet forwards when - KA-DUNK! The car bumps, drops and grinds to a halt. Sudden. Unexpected.

Beth REVS hard yet still - the car does not budge.

209 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 209

The window zips down and Beth pops her head out to see - the rear tire is stuck spinning in the LARGE crack in the ground.

210 INT. ROADMASTER - CONTINUOUS 210

Beth desperately trying to steer the car out. Pumps the gas over and over. Flicks between drive and reverse.

211 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 211

The car's wheels spin and kick up concrete dust. It's exhaust-pipe belches out SMOKE and engulfs the car in an acrid HAZE.

KA-CLUNK. The roller door comes to a stop in it's fully upright position.

212 INT. ROADMASTER - CONTINUOUS 212

Beth's teeth gritted as she keeps trying to jump the car out.

BETH
Come on, come on, come on...COME ON!!

Kassie looks over her shoulder towards the doors from where they came as smoke and dust rises upwards.

Just before they are fully concealed by the smoke - she notices them swing open.

KASSIE
IT'S COMING!

Beth flicks her eyes to the side mirror just in time to see - a hideous spidery shape emerging from within the smoke.

213 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 213

Beth swivels her head out the window and looks over her shoulder as it steps through the smoke to reveal -

A beast from the darkest part of your worst ever nightmare.

Ellie is the THORAX, Danny and Bridget criss-crossed through the wounds on her body. Operating as the SPINDLY LIMBS of -

THE MARAUDER.

To the sound of crunching bone and flesh - Ellie's upside down head corrects itself, and glares towards Beth.

No sooner is the bead set on her - this thing moves. Fast.

CUT TO:

This monsters POV as it races towards the Roadmaster.

214 OMITTED 214

215 OMITTED 215

215A OMITTED 215A

215B OMITTED 215B

216 OMITTED 216

217 OMITTED 217

218 OMITTED 218

219 OMITTED 219

219A INT. ROADMASTER - CONTINUOUS 219A

A hanging SCENTED TREE swings from the rear view mirror as - BOOM! Marauder hands lands in the drivers window..

As soon as they appear, we quickly pull back to see - the car interior is empty. Moving back out through the door and into -

219B INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS 219B

The duo have escaped. Hiding behind the open car door. Breathless, shaking. Beth clutching the shotgun.

A trio of giggling voices coming from somewhere close by. The sound of motion, of crunching flesh, bone and sinew.

Breath held - Beth dares to edge further along the hood. Peers around the front of the car to see - nothing, then -

The edge of this beast just emerging on the far side of the hood. Danny's head - just turning to look towards her when -

Beth pulls back out of sight. Guides Kassie the other direction along the car body. Peers under the chassis to see -

The legs of The Marauder have changed direction and are coming back around the car - the duo forced to reverse.

A view from above of this dance between the dark hulking creature and the vulnerable duo of Beth and Kassie.

The chase around the car getting ever faster until -

Beth picks a moment and rushes with Kassie into hiding behind a nearby pillar. Backs pressed firmly against it.

Staying as still and silent as they can. Beth's eyes fixed on the open roller door ahead. A dangerous distance away.

BRIDGET'S VOICE
Where are you little sis?

DANNY'S VOICE
We miss you so much Kassie.

ELLIE'S VOICE
We just want to give you the biggest hug you've ever had.

Kassie whimpers - Beth pulls her closer, keeping her silent.

The entire space totally hushed for a moment until -

BUZZZZ! - The light on the roller door turns from green to red followed by the instant GRIND of the mechanics.

The door is closing - the window of escape shutting on them.

No choice but to go for it. Beth leads Kassie quickly to the next pillar. Eyeballs the lot - no sign of the beast.

And to the next pillar - repeats her search. Can't see it. Again and again - closer now. The gate one last leap away.

Three quarters shut. It's now or never.

They race for it. Roll under the gap into -

219Ba INT. EXIT RAMP - CONTINUOUS 219Ba

Freedom! Beth turns to Kassie just as she SCREAMS and is dragged backwards.

The little girl vanishing quickly under the gap just as it closes with a hard THUNK. Trapping Beth on the other side.

The sound of Kassie bellowing for help slowly fading into silence. Beth roars in agonised frustration.

BETH
KASSIEEEEEEE!

Tries to raise the gate with her hands. Impossible. Bellows in pure anger and frustration. Grabs the shotgun.

Her bead drawn to the down light at the top of the exit ramp. Mesmerizing for a moment until, she looks to -

A metal grill on the side of the gate. Starts to bash at it.

HARD CUT TO:

219Bb INT. MR. FONDA'S VAN - MOMENTS LATER 219Bb

Kassie is slammed hard on the dark floor inside the rear of the vehicle - looks up through terrified eyes to see -

The three faces of her family leering over her. She tries to struggle free - but is easily pinned by the baying monster.

219Bc INT. EXIT RAMP - SAME 219Bc

Beth's teeth gritted as continues to bash at the grill. Making minor headway, but still firmly locked out.

219Bd INT. MR. FONDA'S VAN - SAME 219Bd

Kassie frozen in fear as Ellie leers face to face with her. The arms of the beast pull open the door to Fonda's van.

Tolls scatter all around Kassie until one of the arms returns with - A CHAINSAW. Raises it high above Kassie.

INT. EXIT RAMP - SAME

Beth gritted - almost through the grill now.

219C OMITTED 219C

220 OMITTED 220

221 OMITTED 221

222 OMITTED 222

223 OMITTED (CONTENT MOVED TO 221 ABOVE) 223

224 INT. MR. FONDA'S VAN - CONTINUOUS 224

The Marauder's hands pull the rip-cord and - the chainsaw explodes to roaring life. Kassie screams in terror.

ELLIE
I just need your little head, baby girl.

Danny and Bridget's eyes wild as the chainsaw revs faster - it's spinning blade brought towards - Kassie's exposed neck.

ELLIE (CONT'D)
You won't feel a thing, just a tiny nick.

Mere inches from connecting with her flesh when - BOOM! The Marauder jolted. Kassie released as it turns sharp to see -

Beth crouched atop the back of the wood-chipper with the smoking shotgun in her hand.

Kassie escapes out the side door and onto the ground.

Beth stands up to face - The Marauder, veiled in shadow. Glaring back with still buzzing chainsaw in hand.

BETH
(gritted)
Come get some.

Right off her gutsy challenge - The Marauder flings the chainsaw from the darkness - heading right for Beth.

Forcing her to stumble backwards. Her foot giving way as she falls. Shotgun blasts mid air. She lands on the ground. Hard.

The chainsaw lands close. Still rumbling and smoking.

The Marauder's fast moving limbs scuttle over the chipper as it quickly closes in on the stricken prone Beth.

It suddenly appears over the top of the chipper's mouth as -

Beth awakens and reaches out for the chainsaw. Fingertips away when - she is suddenly pulled backwards on the ground.

The Marauder has Beth gripped by the leg and is toying with her. Rag-dolling her all over the hard concrete.

To the sound of this commotion - Kassie scuttles out from under Fonda's truck - and hides behind a pillar.

Beth is suddenly flipped over onto her back. Kassie stepping forward to see Beth as she is dragged upwards and onto -

<u>The mouth of the wood chipper.</u>

Kassie breathlessly watching as -

Bridget's hand reaches out and pulls a lever on the side of the machine. The wood chipper belches smoke, erupts to life.

The chippers sharp rollers suddenly turning at fast speed.

Beth firmly gripped in terror by the beast as it starts to drag her towards the grinding rollers of the chipper.

Kassie races towards the side of the chipper and grabs hold of the lever - yanking hard. Struggling to turn it off.

All hands on Beth as it moves her ever closer to a certain death in the horrific jaws of the machine.

Just as Beth is about to be swallowed - THUNK! Kassie pulls the lever into the off position. The chipper winds down.

Beth kicks out and manages to free herself from the Marauder's grip. Hits the ground and instantly crawls away.

The Marauder sets it's bead on her, and steadily begins to climb down the still settling machine as -

Beth scrambles across the concrete towards the chainsaw. Grabs hold and drags to her feet. Stands heroically.

Facing off to the hideous three headed familial mutation.

ELLIE
(spits)
Where you gonna run to now, Beth?

Beth darts a look to Kassie at the side of the chipper. Still clinging onto the lever. A split second decision made and -

BETH
(bellows)
TURN IT ON!!!

No sooner have the words left her lips - she runs <u>right at the beast</u> with the roaring chainsaw held in front of her.

Kassie slams the chipper back into the 'run' position.

A manic roaring Beth connects with The Marauder - driving the chainsaw into it's midriff below Ellie's head. <u>It screams.</u>

The beast lashes out with it's multiple hands as Beth heaves with all her might to push The Marauder backwards until -

KA-RUNNNCH! A trailing leg is caught in the chipper rollers jolting the Marauder backwards. ALL IT'S EYES WIDENING as -

Blood sprays out of the overhead chipper vent. Beth pulls the chainsaw free and stands defiantly in front of the it.

Blood drips from the chainsaw and rains down around her.

The Marauder SCREAMS with soul chilling malevolence as it is steadily dragged backwards and into the mincing rollers.

Its body quickly eaten up to the waist, its remnants spat skywards in a bloody fleshy spray from its exhaust.

Chunks of flesh and meat landing on the ground as -

The panicked demonic faces of Danny and Bridget scramble to grip onto the sides of the machine. Too late.

They are gobbled up one by one - the chipper vent spraying increasing volumes of blood around the space and onto -

The breathless quivering Beth, and little Kassie still clinging to the chipper lever with her eyes squeezed shut.

The machine chews up the beast until - all that remains is Ellie's head and shoulders. Her remaining arm gripping tight.

Beth looks towards the final remnants of her once sister. *

Ellie's eyes pure and innocent. All demonic skew is gone. * Tears brimming in Beths as she steps tentatively closer. *

ELLIE *
Please help me Bethy-Boo. *

Grief boils up inside Beth as grits her teeth and spits - *

BETH
Only my sister gets to call me * that.

Adrenaline coursing through Beth, her broken body shaking as * she lifts the chainsaw high above her head. Blade spinning. *

ELLIE *
(panicked) *
Nonononononono.... *

Her plead is broken as with a sudden stabbing motion Beth * drives the chainsaw's spinning blade downwards and - *

<u>RIGHT INTO THE TOP OF ELLIE'S HEAD.</u>

The Demon roars as Beth pushes the blade deep into her skull. Blood erupting from all around its point of entry.

The remaining parts of her ragged body are eaten up into the chipper shoot until all that is left is a decapitated head.

Beth pulls the chainsaw clear and sneers at the head lying on * it's side. Fast blinking eyes strained to look up at Beth. *

DEMON *
You really do look like Mom you * know... *

A beat of perverse silence between the duo. Beth staring at * the head. It's breathing rapid. Cheeks puffed. Somehow alive. *

DEMON (CONT'D) *
And you'll fail miserably just like * her too. You stinking horrible * groupie cu... *

Beth cuts its words off in a single swift motion as she - *

Kicks the head square in the face and sends it hard and fast back into the chipper rollers where it is eaten up quickly.

<u>The beast is slain.</u>

Beth drops the chainsaw on the ground. Battle over.

CUT TO:

The side of the chipper where Kassie is still clinging to the lever with her eyes squeezed shut until -

Beth's hand gently releases hers. Kassies eyes peel open and she looks up at Beth - staring breathless back at her.

Beth kneels - their eyes locked together until - they embrace. Hard. Burying their heads into each other.

Wide on the duo against the side of the blood and flesh dripping machine. Deep in embrace. Slow creep to them as -

Beth raises her head and looks down at the finger wounds on her stomach. Her mind ticking fast and hard.

CUT TO:

Wide inside the lot. Silent save the sound of dripping blood space. Only for a moment until -

Beth and Kassie emerge from behind the chipper. Beth urging Kassie forward in front of her towards the gates ahead.

Beth stops dead. Looks back towards the chainsaw on the ground. Returns to it. Picks it up and -

Rests it atop her shoulder as she takes Kassie by the hand and leads her forward towards the gates.

We lose sight of them before they exit as we back through the open passenger window of the car and drop down to see -

The TOFF'S GHOST TRAIN keyring swaying gently in the ignition, slowly turning to reveal its reverse side -

A SOUVENIR PHOTO of -

Ellie, Jay, Danny, Bridget and Kassie - all clinging to each other in laughter and fear on the dark ride. <u>A family united.</u>

Holding on this image as we slowly -

FADE TO BLACK:

225 OMITTED 225

226 OMITTED 226

HARD CUT TO:

227 INT. FIFTH FLOOR CORRIDOR - EARLY MORNING 227

IDENTICAL to the Fourteenth floor, but without signs of bloody carnage. Wide from one end of the corridor towards -

A YOUNG WOMAN in summer dress and sandals. A floppy hat conceals her identity. She's facing closed ELEVATOR DOORS.

Hammering the call button. Impatient. Quits and stomps to the stairwell door marked - 5th FLOOR STAIRWELL.

HARD CUT TO:

228 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - TWO MINUTES LATER 228

Focus on a DOOR in a dark corner. It swings open. We find and follow the CLIP-CLOP of our Young Woman's sandals as she -

Makes across the lot. Phone to ear - talking. A chatterbox.

YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE
(in one breath)
There's been no cell signal until like five minutes ago and I'm on seven percent battery because the power was out all night after that quake and, you could take the bags from under my eyes and bring them on a two week vacation because the thunder kept me awake so I got basically less than zero sleep...

Stops at a V.W Golf parked in an empty corner of the lot.

229 INT. V.W GOLF - CONTINUOUS 229

She unlocks. Sits into the drivers seat. Pulls her rear view mirror. A reflection of her eyes only. Probes at the 'bags'.

ANOTHER FEMALE VOICE
Hey, listen cuz...

YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE
Anyway, all my early morning moans aside, we are gonna have such a fab weekend at the lake. Caleb's Dad's cabin is so awesome and you're gonna love love love his friends.
(MORE)

YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE (CONT'D)
They are so unbelievably *groovy* ...I'm sure one of the guys will be perfect for you.

ANOTHER FEMALE VOICE
I don't wanna be a downer or anything, but I'm not really looking to date right now. You know, I was actually thinking of taking a rain-check on this whole trip thing...

Silence for a moment until -

YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE
Not a chance! It's the end of summer Teresa! I'm picking you up in fifteen. *Bye-eeee* cuz...

Hangs up and pulls her floppy brimmed hat off to reveal a face we recognise. Framed in blonde hair - It's JESSICA.

<u>The FIRST POSSESSED GIRL from the beginning at the lake.</u>

Lips pursed as fresh gloss is added. Then, she pushes the rear mirror back into its original position and FREEZES.

Something reflected *within* it has caught her eyes.

CUT TO:

230 INT. UNDERGROUND PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER 230

We are behind Mr. Fonda's blood splattered van. Silent save the sound from the DRIP DRIPPING BLOOD that is EVERYWHERE.

The recognisable CLIP-CLOP of Jessica's sandals. Her shadow spreading across the ground, until her feet grind to a halt.

She's static with fear in front the carnage. Her eyeballs stinging in response to the visceral images she faces -

Blood pools. Minced flesh. Total crimson hell.

As Jessica scrambles to dial on her phone a DEEP GROWLING sound rises behind her. She slowly turns around to face -

The darkest corner of the lot from which - THE POV FORCE races straight for her at breakneck speed.

Her eyes and mouth widen in sheer heart attack terror. And just as the force is about to collide directly with her we -

HARD CUT TO:

BLACK.

THE END